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Greater CIS Role in International Community Urged

LD0805195594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1936 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva 8 May TASS—"Since the Commonwealth is now officially recognized and has the status of observer in the United Nations, this means that the CIS should take an active part in all processes developing in the world community," said CIS executive secretary Ivan Korotechnya, who visited the U.N. European branch earlier this week.

Summing up the results of his visit in an interview with TASS, Korotechnya noted that the point at issue was actually "participation by the CIS, in the capacity of observer, in all meetings of international organizations having their representative offices in Geneva." This would enable the Commonwealth to spell out its vision of certain issues at the international level and to express its position on these issues.

During his trip to Geneva, Korotechnya signed on behalf of the CIS secretariat an agreement on cooperation with the secretariat of the U.N. Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held talks with executive secretary of the European Economic Commission Yves Berthelot and Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arpad Bogsch.

"The agreement with the UNCTAD defines directions for further joint work and mutual interests," the CIS executive secretary said, referring to regular consultations, exchange of information, technical assistance. The visit to the European Economic Commission laid the foundation for further cooperation. As for the WIPO, a meeting is scheduled to be held in the Belarusian capital Minsk in a month and a half, which is to draw plenipotentiary envoys of CIS member-countries and to be attended by Bogsch. The meeting is to concentrate on coordination in protection of intellectual property rights.

"The recognition by the United Nations of the CIS as a regional association prompted us to approve at our latest meeting in Moscow a plan of measures aiming to develop international contacts," Korotechnya reported. The recent visit by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to the CIS headquarters in Minsk proved to the United Nations' interest in cooperation with the CIS. "I do not rule out that in prospect a representative office of the CIS as a whole will be set up in Geneva," the executive secretary noted. "But for this, we need a decision by the council of heads of government or of heads of state," he added.

At present, each of the newly-independent states is establishing ties with U.N. structures separately, and yet "we are also looked at as the Commonwealth on the whole," Korotechnya pointed out. Orienting itself for international contacts, the CIS secretariat does not intend by any means "to influence any bilateral ties": All CIS member-countries have the right to choose their partners on their own. The point at issue is just cooperation that could be profitable for the entire Commonwealth.

At the latest meeting of CIS heads of state and government in Moscow, "we took a serious step towards consolidation and strengthening of the Commonwealth," the CIS executive secretary said. "We have reached the level of Commonwealth when the member-states are gathering at the table not just to sign some document," he emphasised. At the same time, all states are sovereign, therefore we should search for a consensus when solving our problems. "We should take counsel and reach agreement—this is the main essence of the Commonwealth. This is perhaps the core of democracy and of all processes currently underway in our society," Korotechnya pointed out.

Further Reportage on Nagorno-Karabakh Talks in Bishkek

Shumeyko Advises Recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0605133394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Bishkek protocol on settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which was signed Thursday [5 May] by the heads of parliamentary delegations from Russia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, remains open for signing. Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, believes that Azerbaijan will also accede to the treaty soon. RIA reports him as saying this today at a Moscow news conference.

Vladimir Shumeyko believes that the main obstacle preventing Azerbaijan from signing the Bishkek agreement is the problem of de facto recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent party to the conflict. The leader of the upper house of parliament considers that a cease-fire in the conflict zone will only be possible when Azerbaijan recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh's independence.

Armenia, Karabakh Agree To Cease-Fire

LD0605164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh parliament speakers Babken Ararktsiyan and Karen Baburiyan said during the meeting with Kyrgyz Parliament Speaker Medetkan Sherimkulov in Bishkek Friday that they would take steps on their return home to achieve a cease-fire in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone.

Sherimkulov, who is also the chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's peacekeeping group for Nagorno-Karabakh, told Interfax that both speakers had made the pledge in response to his own call for a unilateral cease-fire in the conflict zone beginning midnight on 9 May.

The cease-fire would, he said, involve an agreement like the one which would have been achieved at the recent meeting in Bishkek on 4-5 May (on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict) had Azerbaijan not refused to sign the relevant protocol after objecting to some of the document's items.

Sherimkulov announced that he would also meet with Azerbaijani representatives and repeat his request for a cease-fire from on 6 May.

He said the next round of talks on Nagorno-Karabakh would take place in St. Petersburg at the beginning of June.

The Armenian speaker, who had been impressed by the Bishkek meeting, assured Interfax in an interview that the Armenian party would be "putting the protocol signed in Bishkek into effect" unilaterally.

He stressed that the "Azerbaijanis have once again displayed their unwillingness to solve the Karabakh issue by political means." However, Ararktsiyan said he was hopeful that Baku would appreciate that the conflict could not be resolved by force.

Bishkek Protocol Outlined

NC0605141594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1358 GMT 6 May 94

["Azerbaijan Didn't Sign the Bishkek Protocol"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Bishkek, 5 May (SNARK)—As SNARK correspondent reports from Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, there was signed the "Bishkek Protocol." It was signed during the meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliamentaries with the participation of the Karabakh parliamentaries and Vladimir Shumeyko as a Chairman of the CIS Inter-Parliament Assembly. The meeting took place following the initiatives of the CIS Inter-Parliament Assembly, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, the Federal Assembly and the Foreign Affairs Department of Russia. The Participants:

—Express the eagerness to contribute to the cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and round, as the conflict in the region not only damages the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan but also infringes the interests of the other states of the region;

—Supporting the April 15, 1994 Declaration of the Council of the CIS leaders, the participants of the meeting express their readiness to say "yes" to all the attempts of the CIS leaders and the representatives of the executive power to cease the hostilities and eliminate its consequences by concluding in the nearest future a corresponding agreement;

—Come out in favour of the natural and active role of the CIS and the Inter-Parliament Assembly in the cause of the conflict's settlement, realization of the principles, aims and decisions of the UN and CSCE (first of all the resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 of the UN Security Council);

—Appeal to all the combating sides to cease the fire at May 9 midnight on the basis of the February 18 Protocol (including the point of the observers' deployment) and to sign in the nearest future a reliable and juridically-committal agreement, providing a mechanism of non-resumption of the military actions, troops' withdrawal from the occupied territories and resumption of the communications' functioning, return of the refuges and continuation of the negotiations;

—Agree to suggest the Parliaments of the CIS countries discussing the initiative of the Chairman of the Inter-Parliament Assembly V.F. Shumeyko and the Head of the Assembly's Group for peaceful settlement of the Karabakh problem M.Sh. Sherimkulov on creating peace-keeping forces of the CIS;

—Consider useful to continue such meetings for peaceful settlement of the military conflict;

—Express gratitude to people and leadership of Kyrgyzstan for providing good conditions of work, cordiality and hospitality.

The protocol was signed by:

B. Ararktsyan, Chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet
K. Baburyan, Acting Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh
Supreme Soviet
V. Shumeyko, Chairman of the Council of Federation of the Russian Federal Assembly,
Chairman of the Council of the CIS Inter-Parliament Assembly
M. Sherimkulov, Chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Soviet, Head of the Inter-Parliament Assembly's group for peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict
V. Kazimirov, Russian President's special ambassador, Head of the Russian intermediary mission
M. Krotov, Head of the Council of the Secretariat of the CIS Inter-Parliament

Under the protocol there is no signature of the Azerbaijani representative Dzhalilov.

Karabakh Government Orders Cease-Fire

LD0805111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 8 May—The Nagorno-Karabakh leadership today gave the order to its forces to cease-fire unilaterally along the entire front at midnight of 8-9 May. Stepanakert is thereby demonstrating its respect for the appeal addressed to the warring sides by participants in the Bishkek meeting of CIS parliamentarians on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic press and information department.

It was reported from Stepanakert at the same time that this morning the Azerbaijani side embarked upon a large-scale offensive in the north of Markadertskiy Rayon towards the villages of Chailu, Leninavan, and Karmiravan. The press service of the Karabakh Army staff has announced that its subunits "are successfully repulsing all attacks by the enemy, inflicting on the enemy tangible losses in men and military equipment."

According to official sources in Stepanakert, positional exchanges of fire and localized fighting took place on other sectors of the Karabakh front last night and this morning.

Azerbaijan Refuses To Sign Protocol

NC0605182094 Baku TURAN in English 1616 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Baku (6 May) TURAN—The refusal by Azerbaijan to sign the final document for the regulation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict irritated Russian's political circles which was the initiator of the meeting. "We were not able to obtain from Azerbaijan official recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is a partner to the conflict side, but attempts in this direction will continue", said a senior officials of the Russian Parliament in his conversation with a TURAN correspondent. The same source notes that Moscow will do its best to achieve this purpose and "will use means not only of a diplomatic character."

According to information made available to TURAN's correspondent in Moscow by Russian Parliament sources, in Bishkek's document a cease fire from midnight on 8 May is provided for, whence after the fighting sides will cease military actions in the region. A deblockading of energy-transportation communications together with the separation of troops is also included in the provisions.

In the Bishkek document, the term "fighting sides" means only Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the protocol there lacks a concrete definition of the mechanism which provides for the return of hundreds of thousands of Azeri refugees to their homes.

In the document there is also an appeal to the CIS about sending peace making forces of the CIS to the conflict area.

According to TURAN, Azerbaijan refused to sign the Bishkek document because the Bishkek document does not consider the total withdrawal by Armenian units from Azeri-occupied territories. Rather is only the separation of sides along the frontline.

Another reason for Azerbaijan's non-signing is because the protocol envisages the stationing of supervisory posts of Russian army in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan thinks that the location of separation forces can be achieved only after the liberation of all occupied territories.

The protocol also calls for the creation of a security zone, which in fact spans the territory of western Azerbaijan from the Kura River to the Araks River. Azerbaijan will have less control over this territory, thereby forcing Baku to reconcile its loss of control over this part of the territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh.

Another main point raised during this meeting was the refusal to permit the Azeri representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh to be a separate participant in the negotiations surrounding the Bishkek document. Neither the Russians, nor the Armenians want to allow the Azeri representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh to participate in the negotiations as a separate entity. "If the right to sign the document is conceded to Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh, then the same right should be given to the Azerbaijan community of Nagorno-Karabakh whose leader is Shusha's Mayor Nizami Bakhmanov," said Afiaddin Dzhalilov, the vice-speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

The Azerbaijani delegation also stated that the proposed document does not reflect the fact that Azeri territory is "occupied." There is only mention that these territories have been "captured." According to Dzhalilov, such an interpretation is a misrepresentation of the political and legal nature of the conflict. The next meeting for the regulation of the conflict will be held in St Petersburg.

Azerbaijan Signs Protocol on Cease-Fire

LD0805144194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, has signed the Bishkek protocol, in which the Azerbaijani side too undertakes to cease hostilities from 8 to 9 May, along the whole line of Azerbaijani-Armenian confrontation.

Shumeyko: Time To Decide on CIS Peacekeeping Forces

LD0605114594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow 6 May TASS—"We should proceed immediately to forming CIS peacekeeping forces," chairman of the Commonwealth Inter-parliamentary Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko said today.

He told a press conference in the Federation Council that some 15 thousand Russian servicemen are now engaged in peacekeeping actions. This is a heavy burden for Russia, but some politicians accuse the country of imperial ambitions, Shumeyko said.

According to him, it is necessary to build peacekeeping forces which comprise representatives of all Commonwealth countries. This view is shared by parliamentarians of a number of the Commonwealth states. Shumeyko said this would reduce wrong ideas concerning Russian troops in public mentality and dispel allegations about Russia's intervention in the internal affairs of the Commonwealth member-states.

Kiev 'Trying To Torpedo' CIS Security System

MK0705095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 4

[Report by Yuriy Selivanov in the "Ukraine" column: "To Break Is Not To Build. Kiev Is Trying To Torpedo the CIS Collective Security System"]

[Text] A recent visit to Kiev by Estonia Defense Minister Indrek Kannik continued the series of Ukraine's bilateral military contacts with various CIS states. His Ukrainian counterpart Vitaliy Radetskyy promised the Estonian minister to share some of Ukraine's surplus arms. That there is really something to share is proved by a figure cited in his time by Colonel General Boris Pyankov, Russian Federation deputy defense minister: There are 15 million automatic small arms alone in Ukraine's arsenals. A little earlier a representative delegation led by Col. Gen. Ivan Oleynik, Ukraine deputy defense minister, visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. During the talks with the leadership of the national armies in these countries, expansion of bilateral military collaboration was discussed. In particular Ukraine expressed its readiness to resolve the question of returning to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan their military equipment which since the disintegration of the Union has stayed at Ukraine's maintenance factories. Right at the negotiating table, the Kiev paper HOLOS UKRAYINY reports, orders were issued to prepare military trains for shipment. The Ukrainian side expressed the readiness not only to make available its maintenance facilities to the Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan military departments but also to upgrade their existing armaments. For its part, Ukraine showed interest in ensuring the maintenance of its military transport aircraft at Uzbekistan enterprises.

Commenting on the results of the Ukraine Defense Ministry delegation's visit to the Central Asian countries, the Ukrainian press states with satisfaction that the sides have come to an understanding that full-scale relations between their military departments should be formalized by direct treaties on military cooperation at head of state level. Such an unequivocal accent on the bilateral character of military ties promoted by Ukraine is seen by observers as Kiev's attempt to thwart Moscow's efforts to create a collective security system. The Ukrainian leaders read into the latter primarily "the imperial ambitions" of Russia which, in their opinion, is seeking to turn the other CIS countries into its exclusive "sphere of influence." Kiev is concerned that some of the former Soviet republics are showing increasing readiness to be inside such a "sphere," which will allow them substantially to improve both their financial and economic and military-political situation.

Ukraine, whose leadership treasures above all its independence from Moscow, is running the risk of finding itself in a military- political isolation that can hardly be offset even by its participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program. It is hard to imagine that the

"counter-game" played by Kiev, whose ultimate goal is to torpedo the "pro-Moscow" collective security system and to surround Russia with a kind of "cordon sanitaire" formed with states minimally linked to it, would be crowned with success. The geopolitical contestants' weight categories are too different and moreover, the situation of the Kiev regime, oriented toward "super-independence," is such that hardly anyone in the CIS would wish seriously to get involved with it.

In any event, Ukraine failed to engage into an anti-Russian military political game Georgia and Azerbaijan which, in spite of Kiev's readiness to continue to render them the broadest possible military assistance, nonetheless preferred to develop relations with Moscow, including joining the CIS and agreeing to the deployment of Russian military bases on their territory.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 7 May

LD0705054894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0530 GMT 7 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 7 May TASS—The upcoming Victory Day celebrations were one of the main topics of today's newspapers.

Despite the disintegration of the Soviet Union, people of Russia are waiting for this day to come, the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI said. "Although our souls are often filled with worries and concerns about how to survive in this hard time, Victory Day returns us to the Russian roots," it said.

"There are no military parades anymore... But there is the eternal flame at the soldiers' tombs. There are war veterans. Many gray-hair defenders of the fatherland will get together for their holiday to reminisce about their war days and their youth," the newspaper said.

Its article "The Altar of Victory" reminds the readers that "only consensus may help the nation survive in critical conditions. It will always be like this in spite of differences in historic situations."

The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA shares this opinion. It publishes an excerpt from the memoirs of Aleksandr Buchin, the chauffeur of legendary Marshal Georgiy Zhukov.

The military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stressed the need to restore spiritual values in Russia. "As never before this task is urgent today when our society is in a spiritual crisis." For many young people, profit is the only goal in life. The once sacred notions of duty, honour and patriotism are no longer revered and respected. As a result, the future of the state may be put at stake, the newspaper said.

The trade union daily TRUD has started a new rubric, "How Is Life, Veteran?" The newspaper said that only 4,300,000 war veterans have survived. Many of them have been denied privileges that their colleagues enjoy. TRUD called on the heads of local administrations and local councils to adopt programmes of assistance for war veterans and do everything possible to make their life easier.

The newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA recalls that the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, which included, apart from Russia, the United States, Britain and France, also celebrate May 9. "The war veterans of our allies also contributed to the victory," the newspaper said. It described Viktor Suvorov's book (former Soviet KGB agent who defected to the West) "Icebreaker" as a myth.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA also ran a big article devoted to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's new book "The View From the Kremlin." The president is trying to "convince himself and others that he had done everything possible to prevent the October 1993 bloody drama and that his policy is the best and the only way out for Russia," the newspaper said.

The youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes photographs of former residents of the village of Isakovo near Moscow who were killed in the war. Thankful villagers unveiled a war memorial on 9 May 1984 in their memory. "How many are there such obelisks in Russia—thousands? Dozens of thousands? Ten years ago KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA shorthand typist Yekaterina Blagodareva told the story of just one because she would not have the heart to talk about others," the newspaper said.

PRAVDA carries a series of photographs of war photographer Aleksandr Ustinov. The events he caught on his pictures "belong to history—celebrations in Moscow in May 1945, legendary Marshals Georgiy Zhukov and Konstantin Rokossovskiy and other unforgettable scenes and faces," it said.

Yeltsin Urges World Celebrations of WWII Victory

LD0705104594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1005 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Moscow 7 May TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called for worldwide celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazi in the World War Two and declare 1995 the year of memory of the WWII victims.

Yeltsin said the United Nations should urge all countries, their parliaments and governments to declare 8-9 May, 1995 days without shooting.

In his letter to the United Nations released by the presidential press service on Saturday, Yeltsin said that "the importance of the great victory won by joint efforts of the people of various countries cannot be tarnished even by time. One of its main lessons—in order to defend peace, all peace-loving forces must act jointly, concertedly and actively."

"It is important, especially now, because there is still a possibility of armed confrontation between countries, blood continues to flow in civil, inter-ethnic and local conflict, the danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction is growing," he said.

Russia believes that "it is in the interests of mankind to actively help step up the role and increase the effectiveness of the United Nations—as a pivotal element of the system of collective security—in pursuing the lofty goal proclaimed in its charter—"to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

Yeltsin Message on WWII Anniversary

LD0705124094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 7 May 94

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1845 GMT on 7 May transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Moscow May 7 TASS—Following is the full text of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's address to the United Nations organisation in connection with the 50th anniversary of the end of the World War II.

"On 8-9 May, 1995 the whole mankind will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of the World War II. The defeat of fascism meant a great victory of good forces over evil forces. But we paid a dear price for it. The war claimed over 50 million human lives. Hundreds of thousands of towns and villages were razed to the ground. Hundreds of millions of people were left without a shelter and means to live on.

"There is not one family in Russia which would not be touched by the fire of that war. Our pain and sorrow will never abate, the grief of soldiers' widows will never be soothed. The tragedy of war and the happiness of victory will live in people's memory for ever.

"The importance of the great victory won by joint efforts of the people of various countries cannot be tarnished even by time. One of its main lessons—in order to defend peace, all peace-loving forces must act jointly, concertedly and actively. It is important especially now because a possibility of armed confrontation between countries still exists, blood continues to flow in civil, inter-ethnic and local conflict and the danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction is growing.

"Russia believes it is in the interests of mankind to actively help step up the role and increase the effectiveness of the United Nations—as a pivotal element of the system of collective security—in pursuing the lofty goal proclaimed in its charter—'to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war.'

"Our people who bore the main burden of the World War Two and sacrificed dozens of millions of their sons and daughters to the alter of victory have been consistently opposing the settlement of disputes by force. It is our conviction that there are no such goals which could justify the unleashing of a war. The preservation of peace is the supreme goal of our state.

"The Russian Federation calls on other countries—members of the United Nations organisation, their parliaments and governments to do their best to stop the current armed conflicts and prevent new ones.

"In memory of millions of people who perished in the fire of the World War Two we propose to hold, under the aegis of the United Nations organisation, broad and solemn celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazi and declare 1995 the 'year of memory of the victims of the World War Two.' We believe it expedient that the United Nations organisation address all nations of the world, their parliaments and governments with a call to declare 8-9 May, 1995 days without shooting.

"Let the 50th anniversary of great victory give a new powerful impetus to the preservation and safeguarding of peace. Mankind must finish the 20th century and enter a new one with confidence in the future."

Russian Troops To Be Withdrawn From Abroad by Sep

LD0605145794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev said that, by September 1, 1994 Russia would have withdrawn all its troops from other countries, both within and outside former Soviet territory, except for those states with which it has agreements to set up military bases on their territory.

Altogether 32,000 troops would return to Russia, Grachev told a news conference in Moscow on Friday.

The Black Sea Fleet, however, would stay in Crimea, and, unless proper social security was provided for

retired Russian military officers living in Estonia, Russia would keep a military contingent there too, he said.

The general said additional allocations were needed to resettle officers and their families coming back to Russia. He said his ministry was spending more than half of its funds for those purposes.

Grachev said military reforms could not be successful without state support. Only at that level could the stable financing of the armed forces be ensured and could they be brought up to full strength, he said.

The minister slammed the Pacific Fleet for its training standards, which, he qualified as the lowest in the country's armed forces. He said there would be replacements in the fleet command.

Grachev said Russia would keep all its five arms of defense (the strategic missile forces, the land forces, the air force, the air defense forces and the navy) till the year 2000. He said the Defense Ministry would be paying priority attention to the strategic missile forces, "which are the guarantor of national security both today and in future."

Kozyrev: Russia Cannot Accept NATO Partnership

LD0705064294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0628 GMT 7 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow May 7 TASS—"NATO's Partnership for Peace programme cannot suit Russia. A more serious programme of cooperation is needed to correspond to Russia's status and special conditions in which we will carry out partnership with NATO," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday, Kozyrev said that "our cooperation cannot be the same as with middle and small European countries."

"We believe that there must not be deviation towards NATO-centrism or NATOmania. With all our respect for that organisation we proceed from the fact that it is only one of many which exist on the continent," Kozyrev said.

He said Russia will present NATO at the end of May with its own concept of European security. The minister stressed that this will not be an alternative to the Partnership for Peace. Russia's position on that matter will be outlined by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev at a meeting with NATO defence ministers on May 24, Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev Favors Broader Cooperation With NATO

LD0805164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[Text] Murmansk 8 May TASS—"Russia does not reject partnership with NATO. But it should be partnership on an equal basis," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with TASS on Sunday.

"This has been and will be our concept in foreign policy," he stressed.

The foreign minister, who was elected to the Russian Parliament's Lower House from the Murmansk constituency, arrived earlier in the day in this city in northern Russia on a trip related to his deputy's duties.

Elaborating on Russia's role in the pan-European process, Kozyrev said: "We are not a weak country. We do not have any inferiority complexes. Therefore we are ready for cooperation with NATO as an equal partner."

According to the Russian diplomat, the agreement on Russia's joining NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, was not signed in April as scheduled because of "the need to finalize the document offered to us."

"I believe we will go ahead with signing not only this framework document, even not this framework document at all, but a broader and more comprehensive programme of cooperation between Russia and NATO," the foreign minister emphasised.

Ames Cited on Reasons for Spying

PM0905105594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 May 94 p 5

["Own information" report: "Ames Instilled Fear"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the (recently) high-ranking CIA staffer Aldrich Ames has been sentenced to life imprisonment. This, it is said, is for his link with the Russian special services, which caused unprecedented damage to U.S. security. We have managed to obtain some of A. Ames' statements from competent sources. Here they are—at first hand, as the saying goes.

In a statement in court Ames sharply criticized the government in connection with the fact the unprecedented pressure which it brought to bear on his wife, Rosario Ames, in fact pushing her to perjure herself. (It is known that the authorities tried to accuse her of complicity in espionage). Noting that he deeply regrets the grief he has caused his family, Ames said: "I managed for seven and one half of my 10 years' cooperation with the KGB and the Foreign Intelligence Service to conceal the fact successfully from my wife. When Rosario, as a result of a mistake I made, found out about my criminal activity, she demanded I break off relations

with the Russians. I was able to put the necessary pressure on her, right up to blackmail, to defer that step."

Explaining the reasons why he passed on to the KGB information about CIA agents and other intelligence departments, Ames noted:

"First at the time I disagreed with the strengthening of the extreme right-wing forces in our political spectrum and with U.S. policy in the field of ensuring national security and in the international sphere. Second, I had reached the conclusion that espionage as it was practised by the CIA and some other U.S. departments has been and remains cheating in the interests of a group of careerist bureaucrats who are successfully misleading several generations of U.S. politicians and citizens regarding the need for and value of their work. There has not been and is not any justifiable need to have thousands of intelligence officers and tens of thousands of agents throughout the world, particularly in friendly countries. The information received by our vast network of agents at the cost of considerable human and moral efforts is mostly of no special importance and does not meet politicians' requirements.

"Thanks to the efforts of the CIA and the FBI the leadership had a very good idea of the real state of affairs in the special services of the 'Soviet bloc' countries. Nonetheless, on the pretext of the need to conceal from the enemy the true scale of our agents' penetration of those states' special organs, for decades it instilled unbridled hysteria over the aggressiveness of their intelligence services."

Does that mean that CIA supermen exist only in movie thrillers? After all, Ames alone instilled such fear that the entire "collective" of the formidable department was forced to take a lie detector test. You feel sorry for the boys....

Nizhniy Novgorod Attracts Attention of Foreign 'Spies'

PM0905095394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Spies Have Gotten To Like Nizhniy"]

[Text] Western special services are continuing to display a special interest in Nizhniy Novgorod, which in the past was one of the most tightly closed of Soviet cities. In 1993 alone, according to the information of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Directorate for Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, 37 trained spies were discovered among the numerous guests from abroad who regularly came to the "cradle" of Russian capitalism, as well as 125 people involved in the special services. The "cloak-and-dagger knights" are attracted to military-industrial complex installations, research by scientists, and the leaders of political parties. But the most important thing is the Arzamas-16 Federal Nuclear Center.

Duma Official Meets U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary

MK0705100094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Own correspondent report under the "News" rubric: "Russian-American Meeting at State Duma"]

[Text] Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, has met with U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood.

During the meeting, they discussed matters regarding Russian-American military cooperation, the prospects for START II ratification and Russia's joining the "Partnership for Peace" program, and also the status of the joint command staff exercises at the Totsk training ground. It is expected that in late May the Defense Committee will play host to a delegation of U.S. congressmen under the Armed Forces Committee chairman.

Yeltsin Backs Tajik Leadership's Peace Policy

LD0605161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin gave his backing to the policy aimed at restoring peace and security in Tajikistan and at democratic reforms in the republic during his meeting with Chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Emomali Rakhmonov in Moscow today.

The Russian-Tajik joint communique released by the Russian Foreign Ministry said the two leaders had stressed the importance of the first round of the talks between the Tajik government and the Tajik opposition. These talks on national reconciliation bring hope for a peace settlement of the conflict, the statement underlined.

Yeltsin supported the position of the Tajik leadership seeking continuation of the dialogue in order to establish a democratic Tajikistan. This requires firm agreements on putting an end to hostilities, on restoration and strengthening of mutual confidence and on free return of all refugees to their native land.

The communique emphasized that the parties had been deeply concerned over the tense situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and in Afghanistan and over the continuing armed provocations from Afghan territory which threatened security in the whole region.

The parties urged the Afghan military-political groups to seek peace and accord in the country and to create atmosphere of cooperation between the region's countries.

Yeltsin and Rakhmonov pointed out the important stabilizing role played by the joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. They said joint efforts on defense of the southern borders and primarily of the Tajik-Afghan section conformed with the interests of all CIS states.

When discussing economic cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan, Rakhmonov asked the Russian leadership to speed up consideration of the issue on merging of the two countries' monetary systems. He confirmed that Tajikistan was carrying out its obligations on establishment of a single financial space. It was decided that the Tajik and the Russian governments would continue to work on the issue.

Russia said it was ready to continue economic and humanitarian aid to Tajikistan and to enhance cooperation between the two countries in order to develop their economic potential and to meet social needs of the Tajik population.

Foreign Ministry Statement to Afghanistan, Tajik Rebels

LD0705140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow 7 May TASS—A statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry on the Tajik-Afghan border situation was circulated here today.

The statement runs as follows:

"The Russian Federation together with Commonwealth member-states is taking political steps to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and throughout Tajikistan, including the assistance to the inter-Tajik dialogue held under the U.N. aegis.

"At the same time, some forces are not interested in peaceful settlement of Tajik problems. Heads of several irreconcilable opposition groups from the Tajik Islamic Revival Movement are getting ready to launch the so-called spring-summer 'offensive' to begin with armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border in the immediate future.

"Bearing this in mind, the Russian Foreign Ministry considers it necessary to state that the planned armed provocations are described by the Russian leadership as a threat to security of both Tajikistan and Russia, as well as all member-states of the Commonwealth.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry warns the Afghan authorities and leaders of Tajik opposition groups against armed provocations from Afghan territory that threaten security of Tajikistan and collective security of Commonwealth member-states.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry states that the Russian Federation together with other Commonwealth member-states will do their best to prevent further aggravation of the Tajik-Afghan border situation and take adequate measures in case of armed provocations."

Border Post Shelled From Tajik Territory

LD0805110694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] INTERFAX reports that a post of Russian border guards at the 12th outpost of the Moscow border detachment came under mortar fire on Saturday. The fire came from Tajik territory. There are no casualties among the Russian border guards.

Up to 10 groups of militants have accumulated in the rear of the 11th and 12th outposts of the Moscow border detachment. The command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan is taking urgent measures to repel a possible attack on border detachments and military settlements.

Yeltsin Congratulates Black Sea Fleet on Victory Day

LD0705145694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] On Saturday Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev sent congratulation telegrams due to the forthcoming Victory Day addressed to the chairman of the Sevastopol city council of people's deputies Viktor Semenov, residents of Sevastopol, and the Black Sea Fleet mariners.

Having congratulated the Sevastopol residents and the Black Sea Fleet mariners with the Victory Day and with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the city from German fascists, Yeltsin stressed in his telegram that Sevastopol, the major base of the Black Sea Fleet, "is one of the national sacred places for all Russians" which "strengthens the force and the spirit of the Russian people and gives them a hope for the best future." "Eternal glory to those heroes who defended the freedom and independence of Sevastopol," says the president's telegram.

For his part, Pavel Grachev pointed out that despite "the difficult times" which Sevastopol is experiencing now "neither economic difficulties, nor political contradictions, nor painful problems related to the Black Sea Fleet division should darken this bright holiday."

"During my recent visit to Sevastopol I was made sure of the strong will of the residents of this hero-city and saw how its residents trust that their city would be the major base of the well known Black Sea Fleet," Grachev underlined.

Russia, Abkhazia Agree on Peacekeepers

LD0605142694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1244 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 6 May—During meetings between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, Russian

Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev, and the leadership of Abkhazia, an understanding was reached that peacekeeping forces should be introduced along the confrontation line and not on the entire territory of Abkhazia, as the Georgian side was insisting.

Today, the Abkhazian Information and Press Ministry informed an ITAR-TASS correspondent about this and noted that these consultations pursued the goal of agreeing the positions of the sides on the eve of a regular round of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks, which should be held in Moscow on 11 May.

Kozyrev Meets CSCE Envoy on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0605162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1527 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—Russia is ready to continue to contribute to the settlement of the regional conflict in Karabakh and is counting on the support of CSCE, UN, and other organizations, Andrey Kozyrev said today at a meeting with the Swedish diplomat Jan Eliasson who heads the CSCE peace conference on Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. According to Russia's foreign minister, "the cooperation between the Russian intermediary and CSCE is improving" in the sphere of unblocking the situation and their efforts are mutually complementary.

Andrey Kozyrev stressed Russia's special interest in putting an end to the Karabakh conflict because its links with the region have deep historical roots. In his words, "we cannot remain indifferent." The leading Russian diplomat said that other countries were taking an active part in discussing the issue. In particular, the situation in Nagornyy Karabakh was touched upon during his working meeting with Karl Bildt, the Swedish head of government, in St. Petersburg on Thursday [5 May]. Andrey Kozyrev said to Jan Eliasson: "Although you are representing the CSCE here rather than Sweden, nevertheless, we are pleased to say that we have reached an understanding on this matter on the bilateral level as well."

Kolesnikov Assesses 'North-West' Military Exercises

MK0605100094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Maneuvers" column: "The Russian Army Is Ready for Battle. Exercises To Repulse Attack on Former Koenigsberg"]

[Text] At the end of April, from the 24th through the 29th, the forces of the Leningrad Military District, jointly with the troops of the Kaliningrad Special District, held large scale military exercises called North-West. On the small territory of the Kaliningrad enclave substantial forces are concentrated today: the command and the main base of the Baltic Fleet, the 11th Combined-Arms Army, Air Force and Air Defense units, and so forth. Russia's armed outpost in the west still appears a strategically vulnerable point on the map, however, separated from the main territory of the Russian Federation by two independent states.

If any serious adversary were to attack what remains of the former west Prussia, now populated by Slavs, it would have to be defended just like Sevastopol in its time, by uniting the forces of the Baltic Fleet, the Army, the Air Force, and the Air Defense Force under single command. It was to test in practice the possibility of such "territorial" unification of forces and fire to repulse air, ground, and sea (with the landing of assault units) attack that the North-West exercises, unprecedented in scale, were conducted, given the financial squeeze on the Russian army (11,000 servicemen and 2,000 pieces of equipment).

According to General Staff Chief General Kolesnikov, "on the whole, the exercises have passed successfully." Only Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Yegorov did not act confidently enough. Mikhail Kolesnikov, however, believes that following the experience of World War II, navy leaders should not be appointed commanders in ground defense operations.

At the same time, a new territorial principle of organizing air defense on the military operations theater was tested, as was the troops' capabilities to repulse a limited missile attack, for which purpose an early missile attack warning system was used. Apparently the principle of single theater air defense will be adopted as fundamental, but speaking at a briefing in the Defense Ministry, Gen. Kolesnikov specially stressed that "the Air Defense Force will remain the fifth branch of the Armed Forces; at any rate, until 1996."

In the course of the maneuvers the Russian military did not interact—nor was such interaction planned—with the newly raised small armies of the Baltic countries. The Russian military leadership is seeking independence. In particular Gen. Kolesnikov promised that in 1996 the first launching will be made from the Svobodnyy space center in the Far East and as a result the Armed Forces will have no further need for Baykonur. "This will not call for any additional resources." The Russian Space Agency can use Baykonur independently, without Defense Ministry assistance (20,000 servicemen of the Space Forces will be evacuated to Russia).

Yet the military department is seeking independence, not full isolation. The campaign in the Duma against joint U.S.-Russian peacekeeping command and staff exercises on the Totsk test site only annoys the top military leadership, owing to the politicians' total incompetence in military matters. The General Staff chief

believes that "public opinion is being provoked deliberately by people who do not know or pretend not to know what command and staff exercises are."

The General Staff continues to downsize the army. According to Gen. Kolesnikov, by early 1995 the authorized strength of the Armed Forces will be under 2 million people. In the context of manpower and money shortages, the limited resources are directed "selectively" to the Strategic Nuclear Forces and Airborne Forces units. However, if only the Strategic Nuclear Forces, the Early Missile Attack Warning System, and the Airborne Forces remain in the army, further troop and budget cuts can sharply lower the threshold of a nuclear conflict.

Grachev To Reinforce Russian Troops in Estonia

LD0605161094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 6 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Aleksey Ivlev, including recorded comments by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at news conference]

[Text] [Ivlev] If the Russian-Estonian talks are dragged out then the 2,500 Russian servicemen presently stationed on the territory of that Baltic state will remain there as long as necessary, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated at a news conference today. He warned the Estonian side:

[Grachev] If this situation changes, then it will not take long to reinforce this group in order to guard and defend Russian military sites securely.

[Ivlev] The Estonian authorities' policies toward the Russian-speaking population was called apartheid by Pavel Grachev.

[Grachev] They are dividing them into black and white, brown and red, green and blue. What is this? So what if by nationality he is Russian? He was born and grew up there, or he has lived there for 30 or 40 years. That is his land as well when it comes down to it. It is not permissible for anyone to throw him out his own country.

[Ivlev] Pavel Grachev also touched on the issue of Russia's attitude to the Partnership for Peace program that, in his opinion, is not entirely suitable for our country.

[Grachev] You know, we came to the conclusion why should we not, Russia, put forward our own partnership concept. What, are we worse than the others when it comes down to it?

[Ivlev] A group of Russian scholars are to prepare proposals on this by 15 May that will then be examined by a Russian Security Council session. If they are approved then they will be announced by Pavel Grachev on 24 May at NATO's headquarters in Brussels.

Aleksey Ivlev, Vladimir Abdeyev, NTV, from the Russian Defense Ministry.

Lithuania Refuses To Meet Kaliningrad Transit Demands

MK0705085094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Lithuania Refuses To Meet Kaliningrad Oblast's Demands"]

[Text] A working meeting of expert groups of Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast on matters concerning transit to the Russian exclave on Lithuanian territory continued in Vilnius yesterday. Jonas Mackevicius, chief of the Foreign Ministry consular information department, was not optimistic about its possible chances of success. In his words, representatives of Kaliningrad set a number of requirements, particularly on granting them the right to drive by car without visas from Russia to Kaliningrad Oblast and back again, which Vilnius refused to meet.

Baltics Obstruct Activities of Kaliningrad Troops

LD0805083694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad 8 May TASS—Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Russian parliament committee on security and defence, who was in Kaliningrad, the westernmost city of Russia, expressed concern over difficulties raised by the Baltic states to frustrate the normal operations of Russian troops stationed in the Kaliningrad Region.

A delegation of the Russian parliament upper chamber he heads was here on a fact-finding mission to inspect combat preparedness and every-day life of units of land troops and the Baltic Fleet stationed here.

The delegation visited the main naval base in Baltiysk where legislators were guests of the Nastoychivyy destroyer sailors and marines and participated in an anniversary meeting of the region's veterans and the public, which was devoted to the V-Day.

Delegation members discussed problems of combat training and social programmes for troops at meetings with the leadership of the region, the Baltic Fleet, the Army, Border Guards and Air-Defence Forces.

Shirshov said that his trip was a followup of the recent visit to the Kaliningrad Region by parliament's upper chamber speaker Vladimir Shumeyko who came forth with an initiative to set up here a combined group of troops of limited strength.

The idea was backed by the Russian Defence Ministry and is to be formalised legislatively. "The task of this

group is to ensure adequate combat preparedness of this Russian territory," Shirshov stressed.

"Nobody should doubt that it is an inalienable territory of our country, a successor of the former Soviet Union, to which it was transferred according to the decision of the Potsdam Conference 50 years ago," Shirshov stressed.

The delegation departed from Kaliningrad for Moscow on Sunday.

Chechen Republic Bars Ties With UK

LD0505193894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Chechen Republic intends to keep from any relations with Britain in the future until the law and order conforming with world standards be established in the United Kingdom. This was stated by the Chechen Foreign Ministry today.

The Chechen Foreign Ministry said Britain had tried to stain the honor and dignity of the Chechen people blaming it for a vendetta.

"Unwilling to cause any additional troubles and problems for the Britain [as received] and in order to avoid new provocations and incidents unpleasant for Britain," Chechnya decided not to participate in the Sytex-94 international exhibition.

The Chechen president's service told Interfax that the statement was due to the assassination of Karin Reed in London. Karin Reed was a relative of an Armenian terrorist Ter-Oganesyan who had taken part in the assassination of the Utsiyev brothers. Currently, he is serving a life-sentence in a British prison. After the assassination of Karin Reed several London editions suggested that this had been a vendetta on the part of relatives of the Utsiyev brothers sent to Britain more than a year before and killed by Armenian terrorists.

The official reason for the Utsiyevs' trip to London was to legalize the order for printing Chechen currency units and stamps. Scotland Yard suggested that the Utsiyevs had come to Britain in order to buy missiles and to re-sell them to the Azerbaijani party.

Blaming the foreign special services for attempts to discredit Chechnya, the Chechen Foreign Minister stated that the British special services seemed not to know well enough customs and traditions of "Chechens for whom the assassination of a woman an elderly person or a child is a national disgrace."

Troop Withdrawal From Germany Proceeding 'Very Well'

LD0705135094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1315 GMT on 7 May carries a report on observer Viktor Levin asking Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev how the Germans are fulfilling their obligations under the agreement for the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces from Germany. Grachev replies: "The German side is fulfilling its obligations with regard to providing back-up for the withdrawal of our troops very well. As well as the 7.8 billion DM [German marks], we have also received from the German side a further 55 million DM to provide facilities for the troops being withdrawn. There are no obstacles to the sea or rail transport routes.

"We are also fulfilling our obligations. For instance, we have already withdrawn all our munitions from the territory of Germany."

Foreign Ministry Downplays 'Tension' Over Troop Withdrawal

PM0605162894 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 3

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "The Problem of the Troop Withdrawal From Germany Is Provoking Needless Tension, the Russian Foreign Ministry Believes"]

[Text] The problem of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany, which, on the eve of B. Yeltsin's visit, is causing increasing tension due to a planned send-off scenario, which is supposedly humiliating to veterans and to all Russians, is seen differently in official circles.

We learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry that while this scenario was being formulated, there were no differences in the sides' approaches. An understanding was reached between B. Yeltsin and H. Kohl that the send-off for the Russian troops would be organized no less ceremonially than the send-off for the three Western countries' troops. The president repeatedly drew to the chancellor's attention the extent to which this episode impinges on the feelings of Russians, especially veterans.

Calls to demand from the German side a joint withdrawal of the former allied troops are unfounded. Under the four-power agreement, our troops are supposed to be withdrawn by 31 August, and the three Western countries' troops by a later date. For this reason, it is neither legally nor ethically valid to insist on a change in this scenario, the Foreign Ministry believes.

As for B. Yeltsin's upcoming talks with H. Kohl, certain details of the send-off will be clarified there. The culmination of the ceremonies will be in the presence of the German and Russian leaders in Weimar and Berlin. Nobody disputes these proposals.

Economic Expert Previews Yeltsin Talks in Germany

LD0705152994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The sharpest problems of the Russian-German trade-economic relations are to be discussed in the course of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Germany scheduled for

11-13 May, expert of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry Aleksandr Sokol told INTERFAX. In his opinion, the upcoming visit will primarily be of "an economic nature."

As before, Germany remains Russia's most important business partner and major "currency donor," underlined Sokol. In general, the trade-economic relations between two countries are developing favorably, however, several problems which hinder their further development, have accumulated over the last period of time. First of all, it is the problem of Russia's debt. Currently it exceeds 50 billion dollars. This sum includes the earlier granted credits which cannot be repaid due to a number of reasons.

Along with the state debt there exists the so called "commercial debt" of the Russian enterprises to several German firms for the delivered goods amounting to 1.2 billion dollars.

One more problem related to the previous two ones concerns credit granted to Russia under the guarantee of the German insurance company Germes. Since 1991 all previous credits totalling DM 18.4 billion have been allocated on preferential conditions with a 10-year delay in payment. Since 1994 the company Germes passed a decision to annul all benefits with respect to Russia and to issue export guarantees in accordance with the international practice with an advanced payment amounting to 15 percent of the contract's value due to the growth of Russian debt. Because of this circumstance the majority of Russian enterprises cannot use the credit line of the company Germes now. As a result, the Russian government has not passed its decision on utilization of the DM 2.5 billion credit allocated by the German party for Russia in 1994 under the guarantee of the German insurance company.

Meanwhile, the absence of preferential credits can lead to diminishing of Russian import from Germany and to the reduction of turnover between two countries as a whole; both parties recognize that this does not meet their interests.

The Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry believes that mutually acceptable decisions which would prevent further lowering of the bilateral trade-economic exchange can be found in the course of the upcoming Russian-German negotiations.

Russia To Increase Cooperation With East Europe

LD0705163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin declared that Moscow is to restore cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Europe. "At present several nongovernmental organizations try to establish a normal economic mechanism of interaction between these countries and they undoubtedly will have future," he noted in his interview with INTERFAX Saturday [7 May].

At the same time Shokhin believes that Russia is to "overcome, in particular, the problems of debts" on the way to restoration of mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Europe.

He believes that there are some advances in Russia's relations with Hungary, Czech Republic, and Slovakia but "unsolved debt problems with respect to Poland and Bulgaria inherited from the USSR" still hinder restoration of "traditional ties."

Shokhin believes that "the old mechanism of mutual relations, in particular, barter deals" represent "the second serious obstacle" on the way to restoration of mutual cooperation between these countries. Russia's previous partners are less interested in deliveries of their strategic resources in exchange for oil and gas, Russia's traditional raw materials.

Shokhin is convinced that "large projects, as, for example, construction of the oil pipeline Yamal-Poland-Germany and then to the Western Europe" should become the basis for cooperation between Russia and foreign countries because these projects help to simultaneously solve the problem of employment "both for Russia and its partners."

In addition, they help to implement "numerous private projects" which are "the locomotive for economic ties' restoration," noted Shokhin.

Shokhin Holds Talks in Warsaw With Pawlak

LD0705180394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw 7 May TASS—A meeting of Russian Vice-Premier and Minister of Economy Aleksandr Shokhin, currently in Warsaw to attend the 3d conference on "East-West" economic cooperation and Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak was held here on Friday night to discuss joint projects and problems hampering bilateral economic cooperation. The meeting will help to prepare the upcoming Polish visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Shokhin told ITAR-TASS they discussed ways to settle the mutual debt problem, including the "null variants" suggested by the Polish side. Russian and polish ministers of finance will prepare proposals on the issue.

Sources at the Polish Government and the Russian delegation told ITAR-TASS, gradual payment of Russian and Polish debts is possible. A partial payment of the debt on the parity basis is also suggested.

The sides discussed Polish participation in the construction of the Yamal-Western Europe pipeline via Poland and joint modernization of the Moscow-Berlin highway via Minsk and Warsaw.

New forms of payment relations were considered as well. Bearing in mind Russia is against the return to inter-state clearing, the Polish side agreed to consider the forms of payment relations previously suggested by Russian banks, said Shokhin.

Poland is concerned over guarantees of the Russian gas delivery. Shokhin said there will be no problem if the Polish consumers pay for the gas as good as the western ones. Russia is also ready to take into account "special circumstances," he said.

When in Warsaw, the Russian vice-premier also met his colleagues from the United States, Germany and Japan.

A meeting with Japanese Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Eijiro Hata resulted in a statement the Japanese Government does not plan to cut cooperation with Russia.

The sides discussed aspects of investment cooperation. Aleksandr Shokhin offered Hata to abandon the demand for Russian Government guarantees on most profitable joint projects and the Japanese side agreed to think over this proposal.

Astrakhan Develops Economic Contacts With Hungary

LD0705144194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The delegation of the Hungarian Ministry for International Economic Ties has signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with the Astrakhan Region (Lower Volga). The two sides plan to carry out large barter contracts before the end of the current year.

The document provides cooperation in machine building, chemical and medical industries, in oil and gas processing industry, as well as in the sphere of agriculture and fishery. The head of the regional administration, Anatoliy Guzhvin, has told INTERFAX that in 1994 it is planned to strike deals to the sum totalling $10-15 million. In exchange for oil and gas, and fish products, The Astrakhan Region will receive at least 50 Ikarus buses, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

The agreement also provides for the creation in Astrakhan of businesses, jointly with Hungarian firms, which will process agricultural produce. In addition it is decided to regularly exchange economic information and provide favorable conditions for mutual investments.

Foreign Ministry Appeals to Yemen To Stop Fighting

LD0805144794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] [Presenter Aleksandr Goryanov] We have just received a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry. It says, in particular:

The reports from Yemen over the past few days speak about wide-scale military actions. Despite numerous calls to stop the firing, more and more units and subunits join the fighting and the sides are using virtually all military means at their disposal. The Russian leadership again appeals to the warring sides with a pressing request to immediately stop all military operations. No matter how deep the differences between the participants of the conflict might be or what aims they might pursue, we believe they cannot justify the fratricidal bloodshed, more destruction and suffering of the entire people of Yemen.

The government of the Russian Federation in Sana and the Russian General Consulate in Aden are doing everything necessary to ensure the safety of the Russian citizens in Yemen.

Yeltsin Orders Evacuation of Russians

PM0605152894 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Foreigners Leave Yemen, Which Is in the Grip of Civil War"]

[Excerpt] Boris Yeltsin has issued a directive to commence the evacuation of Russian citizens working in Yemen.

French warships have taken on board 150 people—mainly women and children—and taken them from Aden to the port of Djibouti, together with staffers of other foreign embassies.

From there they will be brought to Moscow in the near future by a special flight organized by the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

In all, some 950 Russians are in Yemen on official business. They are diplomats, civilian and military specialists, and representatives of Aeroflot and of commercial organizations. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has informed us that at the first stage the objective is to evacuate all Russian personnel from the southern part of Yemen, where events have become most alarming. The situation is somewhat calmer around Sanaa, the northern capital of this Arab state of 9 million inhabitants. In the event of a further exacerbation of the conflict, urgent measures will be taken to ensure the safety of all Russian citizens. [passage omitted]

Evacuation To Start 8 May

LD0705150594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1346 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shishkov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 May—An Il-76TD transport aircraft carrying 117 Russian citizens—staff members of foreign establishments in the Republic of Yemen and members of their families—took off from Djibouti today for

home. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today when he spoke to a senior staff member of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department. This first group of evacuees from among 850 Russian citizens in Yemen had first been brought from Aden (in southern Yemen) to Djibouti by sea.

The foreign ministry spokesman said the evacuation from the northern part of the country will start tomorrow. A second group of Russians will be taken from Sanaa to Al-Hudaydah (a Red Sea port), where two Russian transport ships are already standing in the roadsteads, and then they will be brought home by sea. Expressing hopes that the evacuation of our fellow-countrymen will be completed successfully, the foreign ministry spokesman added that it is planned to send a further aircraft to Yemen—this time a passenger aircraft—for a final evacuation of people.

Russia To Help Evacuate Americans

LD0805124394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1149 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8 May—It has been decided to evacuate the Russian citizens remaining in Yemen on 9 May, using two TU-154 aircraft, which will fly out to Sanaa on Monday. There are plans to send another plane to Djibouti. Marina Ryklina, head of the press center of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies and Natural Disasters, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that it is planned to bring out 152 Russians, including embassy employees, during the second stage of the evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen, where a bloody civil war is underway.

There are also 78 Russians and Americans and eight French citizens in the port of Al Hudaydah. U.S. and French spokesmen have officially asked the Russian Ministry of Emergencies & Natural Disasters to help evacuate their people to Djibouti and thence to Europe by Russian plane. The Russian cargo vessel "Khudozhnik Kustodiyev" is at the Djibouti roadstead and is ready to take people aboard.

It has already been reported that a plane took 113 Russian citizens and two Slovaks from Djibouti to Moscow this morning.

First Group of Russians Return

LD0805043994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The first 113 Russian nationals evacuated from Yemen have returned home. A transport aircraft from the Russian Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters, which flew them out of the neighboring state of Djibuti alongside two Slovak nationals [as heard], landed today at 0440 at Ramenskoye airport outside Moscow. All of the new arrivals are feeling good. They were welcomed by representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and other organizations, and were all driven to their homes.

The second aircraft with the next group of evacuees is expected to fly to Russia later today.

Second Stage of Evacuation To Begin

LD0805164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Grunau]

[Text] Moscow 8 May TASS—Two TU-154 airliners are to leave Moscow for Sanaa, the capital of North Yemen, on Sunday night to evacuate the remaining Russian citizens, a spokesman for the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations told TASS.

This is the second stage of evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen, currently plagued with bloody feud fighting. A total of 152 Russians are expected to be airlifted from Yemen by this flight, including embassy officials.

On Sunday morning, 113 Russian citizens and two Slovaks were brought to Moscow by plane from Djibouti (northeastern Africa).

Evacuation of Russians, Americans Continues

LD0905084394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS—The second stage of the evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen is scheduled for today. An official of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations told ITAR-TASS today in the morning that, according to the existing information, two Tu-154 planes will arrive in Sanaa, capital of north Yemen, in about two hours. One more plane is expected to fly to Djibouti, in north-eastern Africa.

Marina Ryklina, head of the press centre of the Ministry for Emergency Situations, specified on Sunday that 152 Russian citizens were planned to be evacuated during the second stage, including staff members of the Russian Embassy. Aside from it, 78 Russians, as well as several Americans and eight French citizens are now in the port of Al Hudaydah. U.S. and French representatives officially appealed to the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations to help evacuate their people to Djibouti and from there to Europe by a Russian plane. The Russian dry-cargo ship Khudozhnik Kustodiyev is now on the roadstead of Djibouti. It is ready to evacuate all those people.

A task group of the Ministry for Emergency Situations, led by Valeriy Shuykov, is also staying in Djibouti. It came there several days ago before the first plane of the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

Delegation Arrives in Pretoria for Mandela Inauguration

LD0805133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Korochantsev and Yuriy Pichugin]

[Text] Pretoria, 8 May—A Russian Federation delegation led by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, arrived in the Republic of South Africa [RSA] today. It will attend the inauguration ceremony of Nelson Mandela, the new president of South Africa, which will take place on 10 May.

At Jan Smuts airport near Johannesburg, Shumeyko made the following statement:

"A solemn and joyful event in the life of South Africa—the inauguration of the first democratically elected president of the country—has brought this Russian delegation to South Africa.

"As is known, Russia has made a weighty contribution to the cause of dismantling apartheid and ensuring a political settlement in the RSA. In the fight against the system of apartheid and in the process of establishing a negotiating process, we developed close friendly relations with the constructive forces in South Africa, which are now widely represented in the leadership of South Africa. We intend to maintain and strengthen these relations.

"The RSA and Russia are experiencing a similar period of renewal, a period of seeking the ways of future development while overcoming the old mentality and difficulties of adapting to the new realities. Who, therefore, is better qualified than we are to better understand each other's problems and mutually make use of the accumulated positive experience of social reformation."

The similarity of approach to many aspects of world politics paves the way to partnership in international relations. Russia maintains that the new South Africa must enter the world community and its international bodies as an equal participant, and that all remaining sanctions against it should be lifted without delay. We are prepared to help South Africa in this matter.

The delegation also brought a personal message from President Boris Yeltsin to President Nelson Mandela, congratulating him and stating that the Russian leadership and all Russia's citizens are ready to further promote bilateral cooperation with the RSA in all areas, which would benefit both democratic Russia and South Africa in the name of peace and prosperity."

In an ITAR-TASS interview, Vladimir Shumeyko stressed that the RSA used to be associated mainly with apartheid. Now when the democratic processes have begun in that country, just as they have been in Russia, the whole world wishes it success on this path.

Speaking of bilateral relations, the head of the Russian Federation delegation said they are not beginning from scratch. Since the sanctions against the RSA were lifted, many cooperation opportunities in various fields have opened up between the two countries that are building democracy. Interparliamentary relations are of considerable importance. Our countries have similar legislature in the economic sphere, and this makes our contacts much easier. We hope that from the outset we will start moving toward legislation that will take into account the interests of each partner.

Shumeyko Delivers Yeltsin's Congratulations

LD0805175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Korochantsev and Yuriy Pichugin]

[Text] Pretoria 8 May TASS—Leader of South Africa's African National Congress Nelson Mandela, who is to be sworn in as the country's newly-elected president on 10 May, received here on Sunday a Russian delegation headed by Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the Russian Parliament's Upper House. The delegation had arrived in South Africa to attend the inauguration ceremony.

During the friendly meeting, Shumeyko delivered to Mandela a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In the message, the Russian leader congratulated South African people on the victory of democracy in their country and confirmed the invitation for the newly-elected South African president to visit Russia.

The head of the Russian delegation said he hoped to discuss the main aspects of the fledgling all-round cooperation between the two countries in a personal talk with Mandela.

In his turn, South Africa's newly-elected president stressed that he was inspired with Yeltsin's words and invitation to visit Russia, which he will try do in the near future. Mandela thanked Russian people for their support of South Africans in their struggle for democracy and expressed confidence in fruitful development of relations between the two states.

Russia, DPRK Discuss Visit by ROK President

SK0905020494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 9 May 94

[Report by Kim Hong-sik]

[Text] Moscow, 9 May (YONHAP)—Russia and North Korea are discussing problems related to South Korean President Kim Yong-sam's planned visit to Moscow in June and other issues of mutual concern, informed diplomatic sources here said Monday [9 May].

Additional topics of discussion include extension of the Pyongyang-Moscow friendship and Mutual Assistance (military alliance) Treaty and the crisis on the Korean peninsula over Pyongyang's nuclear program, the sources said.'

The talks involve a North Korean delegation headed by Vice Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu and Russian Foreign Ministry officials. The North Korean delegation arrived here last Thursday.

The meeting, held for the first time in two years at the request of the Russian Foreign Ministry, is attracting intense interest as it comes when Moscow is showing "unmistakable" moves to restore its relations with North Korea, the sources said.

Moscow and Pyongyang had been drifting apart since former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev introduced perestroyka and then following the collapse of communism.

Diplomatic observers here said Moscow apparently called the meeting to discuss the two sides' positions on the North Korean nuclear row that is causing tension worldwide and to seek a resolution of the issue through dialogue.

Moscow will resurrect its earlier proposal for an eight-party conference to reach "an overall settlement" of the nuclear problem among South and North Korea, the United States, Japan, China and Russia, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations.

North Korea, for its part, is expected to again demand the suspension of the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercise "Team Spirit" and inspection of U.S. "nuclear facilities" in South Korea, the sources said.

Pyongyang has yet to show any official reaction to Moscow's proposal for the eight-party conference.

Russia, which wants to play the role of "peace protector," is not in a position to support North Korea in the nuclear dispute. It will nevertheless stress its opposition to United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

Another problem drawing keen interest is what the two countries will do with regard to the Pyongyang-Moscow accord, especially the Military Mutual Assistance Treaty.

In February 1993, Russia sent then-Vice Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze to Pyongyang and explained to North Korea that "the automatic intervention clause" of the Military Assistance Treaty would have to be interpreted in accordance with the changed situation in the post-Cold War era. The clause had stipulated that the former Soviet Union would automatically intervene militarily if North Korea was attacked by outside forces.

At that time, North Korea reportedly replied that it would send Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu to Moscow for further discussion of the problem.

But the visit has not been realized and the question remains one of the major issues pending between Moscow and Pyongyang.

The Moscow-Pyongyang Military Alliance Treaty expires at the end of 1995 and unless either one renounces it unilaterally, it will automatically be extended for another five years.

Another issue bothering Pyongyang concerns North Korean loggers at Siberian camps. North Korea is reportedly trying to block any escaped loggers from settling in South Korea.

Insisting that all North Korean loggers who fled their camps in Siberia are "criminals," North Korea is demanding their detention under judicial and forestry agreements signed by the two countries.

Against this North Korean claim, the Moscow government maintains that any foreigners in Russia can leave for third countries if they take the proper legal steps.

In this regard, Russia and South Korea are currently discussing resettlement of fleeing North Korean loggers in the South and, sources believe, they will eventually be able to do so although it may take some time.

The Russian-North Korean forestry agreement expired at the end of last year and the two are renegotiating the pact.

With regard to President Kim Yong-sam's visit, which is some 20 days away, North Korea is worried that it might "pour cold water" on Moscow-Pyongyang relations, which have been warming up of late.

Importance of Chinese Border Areas Noted

LD0605182194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Steps must be taken to attract Russians, notably refugees from former Soviet republics, to areas bordering on China, Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the Federation Council's International Affairs Committee, said at a news conference in Moscow Friday.

He said that the population of the Khabarovsk and Krasnoyarsk Territories and the Amur Region had been declining, which was alarming in the light of media reports of Chinese expansion into the Russian Far East.

Podoprigora also noted that the government and parliament had to upgrade the powers of those regions while not losing sight of national interests. He believed that serious thought had to be given to the Chinese proposal that an economic cooperation zone be set up in Blagoveshchensk.

Podoprigora emphasized that regional interests should not be neglected in drafting Russian-Chinese relations. He added that the residents of border areas were not all happy about the agreement between the former USSR and China under which the border should run along the mainstream of the Amur. The former border line used to be practically the Chinese bank of the river.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the State Duma, said at the news conference that Russia's active military and political cooperation with the West had to go hand-in-hand with stepping up cooperation with China in these fields.

He called for introduction of regulations for Chinese citizens on Russian soil. According to the police, there are nearly 370,000 of them, he said.

Lukin said that a State Duma delegation headed by Ivan Rybkin will visit China on 14-18 May. He thought that the visit would contribute to dynamic development of the bilateral relations.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Victory Day Rally

LD0905103894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0801 GMT 9 May 94

[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a Victory Day rally in Moscow—live]

[Text] Dear veterans, fighters of the Russian Army, esteemed compatriots, dear Muscovites: Today we are all marking once again the great Russian festival of the Victory. The bloodiest, the most destructive war in the history of mankind ended 49 years ago. It ended with a thunderous Russian shout of Hurrah which rolled over defeated fascist Germany, over the liberated countries of Europe, over the whole world.

Probably, 9 May 1945 was the happiest day in the whole of the 20th century. That happiness was brought to mankind in the first place by the valiant fighters of the Red Army, which included Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Georgians, and people of other nationalities who were at one in defending their homeland.

The whole of mankind bowed its head low as a sign of immeasurable gratitude to the Soviet, the Russian soldier, because without him the fate of the world could have turned out differently.

It was Russia which stopped and turned the brown plague to dust. And it was Russia, as often in the past, which saved the world in the 20th century.

We won victory at a very great cost. There is not a family which did not suffer a bitter loss, and since then it has become the custom to bow our heads to the memory of those who died in bloody battles, in bombardments, exchanges of fire, and in concentration camps. We remember those on the home front who worked till they dropped.

May you be for ever remembered, and with boundless gratitude!

Dear Muscovites and guests of our city, as we return to those years of the Great Fatherland War, we try to find answers to today's questions. What was it that helped us endure? What helped us to defeat that mighty army which was sustained by the resources of the whole of Europe? I think the most important thing was a firm belief in victory. Even in 1941, when the foe was occupying town after town, when Leningrad was blockaded, when the Baltic states, Belarus, and the greater part of Ukraine fell, when the foe was approaching Moscow—we believed and knew that victory would nevertheless be ours. It was this that enabled everyone to do the seemingly impossible.

Veterans recall how difficult life was at that harsh time. But it was at that very time that people found strength of spirit. A great truth was revealed to us—man's best qualities have lost none of their value. Without honesty, decency, charity, and self- sacrifice, we would not have been victorious, would not have endured. These qualities are in our blood, in our character. No tests of endurance can destroy them.

I cannot fail to mention the unity, the breath as one which helped us overcome all difficulties and deprivations. Today we know how hard it was to achieve that unity. The roller coaster of prewar repressions corrupted the life of millions of people, leaving bitterness and resentment in their hearts. But in the face of the chief danger, all this faded into the background.

Quite a few emigres—former enemies of Soviet power—sided with its defenders in order to save the homeland.

Today we also commemorate the anti-Hitler coalition formed by hitherto hostile states. Faced by deadly danger, they abandoned mutual hatred and took joint action against the common enemy. The second front, though opened late, did bring closer the end of the hateful war. It was then that the strategic partnership, which we are now striving to strengthen, came into being.

We have differences with the West, but there is also a unique opportunity to put an end to distrust between each other forever. The only important thing to remember always is that Russia must be treated with respect. Our people will never accept any other language from any state whatsoever. This is because they will always remember how much blood was shed for the sake of peace, and because this is the sacred precept of those who died for our motherland's honor and independence.

One of the most important lessons of the great victory is that the strength of unity, the strength of accord is invincible. This is significant for us, particularly today. We all want our country to become free and flourishing, and the people's life dignified and prosperous. Surely we can unite around this main aim?

Today I call upon all those who hold dear the name of the citizen of the Russian Federation [Rossiyanin], those who hold dear the glory of the fatherland: let us unite in peace! We managed to be united in the great war: I believe we can be united in building civic peace.

The first steps on this road have been taken. Many parties, movements, unions, and associations joined the Treaty on Social Accord. Let those who are always displeased grumble and let instigators shout away. We will continue, because the difficult path to peace is always better than political squabbling and war. Let the tears and the grief of mothers in Armenia and Azerbaijan, in Georgia and Tajikistan, and the bloodshed in Yugoslavia be a stern warning to those who value political revenge more than human lives.

By signing the Treaty on Social Accord, we did not and are not seeking victory. We seek overall peace. We do not regard as our enemy those who refused to join the

Treaty. There are no quick solutions or simple formulas in the building of a new Russia. We are prepared to hold a dialogue and on-going consultations with parties and factions, which is the meaning of the Treaty on Social Accord.

Esteemed veterans, I know that the beginning of the war has a particular place in your memory. We retreated then. We did not dare look into the eyes of women and old people then. We had to learn to conquer in action. We mastered this difficult skill, though not immediately. The people gave its Army the best weapons in the world, the best equipment in the world, the best soldiers, and the best military commanders. In the name of the triumph of justice and as a mark of nation-wide respect and nation-wide gratitude, a monument to Georgiy Konstantinovich Zhukov, the great Russian commander and true son of Russia, will be unveiled in Moscow in exactly a year from now, on 9 May 1995.

A decision was taken today to found a Zhukov order and medal. Honor and glory to the great Russian military leader!

The year 1941 was especially difficult and bitter for us. But 1945 was a year of victory. It is important for Russia today to remember this during the current transformations. We began these transformations without the necessary experience, and at first we were compelled to draw on the practice of other countries. But now, more than two years on, we have been able to accumulate our own priceless Russian experience. No other state has it. You will read about it in any book. Now we will go further, clearly understanding what needs to be done in Russia in order to revive its greatness and dignity, and how.

Recent years have been especially difficult for all of us. Everything could very easily have been wrecked, but we held out. This is due in no small measure to you, dear veterans, to your wisdom, courage, and steadfastness, to the fact that you know the true price of peace and reject hysteria, panic, and cheap demagogy. I have no doubt that veterans will continue persistently to defend stability and civil peace in Russia.

Dear friends! Today the splendid central museum of the Great Patriotic War, built by Muscovites, opens here on Poklonnaya Gora. Many defenders of the fatherland did not live to see this day. Many of them could not come here because of old age and illness. May the memorial complex being built on Poklonnaya Gora be the general homage of Russia and our people to the heroes and simple soldiers of the war, to their feat of arms!

Yesterday the victory memorial was blessed by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Henceforth, this place will become one of the shrines of Russian history. We failed to keep safe the Church of Christ the Savior, or the church built to commemorate the faith and soldierly glory displayed in 1812. But I believe that the fate of the Victory Memorial will be different, will be better. I appeal to you, dear veterans, and to your children and grandchildren, our descendants: let us jointly preserve the Victory Memorial, let us jointly preserve our shrines!

In exactly one year's time, we will mark the 50th anniversary of the great victory. Preparations for this great event start from today. The coming year will be a year of commemoration, of making sense of our peacetime and wartime history. This history includes difficult and bitter pages. We will have to restore those pages which were mercilessly torn out and record those which have not yet been fully recorded. It is our duty to put in order all monuments, all graves of the homeland's defenders. It is our duty to restore the shining names of those who are still listed as missing without trace.

But the most important thing is that all of us, all Russian citizens, should change a little and become more tolerant, charitable, and wise; it will then be easier to deal with everything which poisons our lives today. As true sons of the fatherland, we will be proud of the heroic deeds of our forbears, draw conclusions from their mistakes, and will remember that one of the most important lessons of our history is the lesson of unity. When we are in agreement, we are strong. When we are together, we are invincible.

Glory to the veterans of the Great Fatherland War! Glory to the Russian Army! Glory to Russia! Glory to Moscow! Hurrah!

Yeltsin on WWII Anniversary, 'Partnership' With West

LD0905082794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The time is 1033; sorry for the delay. We have just received a recorded report by our correspondent Venediktov at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall in the Aleksandrovskiy Gardens. President Boris Yeltsin of Russia is answering questions from journalists.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] In 1945, Russia, as a country, the former Soviet Union, did indeed save Europe and the world from the plague of brownshirts, and it is hard to imagine what would have happened had it not done so. The whole world should therefore bow its head first of all before our Russian soldiers, officers, commanders, that is, before those who took part in the Great Patriotic War, should honor the memory of those who perished and express gratitude to those who are alive.

But now is a new stage, a stage of partnership between our previously conflicting countries, especially Russia and the United States of America. Now partnership is of course introducing an entirely different stage. Now there is no confrontation as such. But nor must we lose our vigilance. Therefore, while we are gradually lowering the threshold of armaments and armed forces, nevertheless we will constantly keep it in parity with the United States, with NATO, and so on. At the same time, of

course, we will cooperate more, perhaps carrying out joint exercises, although they have not been carried out before, to make our partnership really that of comrades at arms [druzhestvenno-boyevoy].

I think that there are more guarantees of peace now than ever before, all the more so since this anniversary—the 49th—is being marked precisely at a time when the political situation in Russia is becoming stabilized, when there are grounds for calm, when there are grounds for different parties and factions sitting down at the negotiation table together to discuss questions and to hold a dialogue. It is the year when, as you know, the Social Accord Treaty was signed. I think it will give Russia a great deal, and not just Russia but the whole world, too.

I am sure that Russia will still help the West. That will come.

[Unidentified voice: "If God is willing"]

[Yeltsin] If God is willing, yes indeed, since the hopes—and belief and hope are the most important things—cherished by every soldier during the war—the belief, the belief namely in victory, was the decisive factor which brought about 9 May 1945.

I think that Muscovites were very glad, specially those who participated in the Great Patriotic War, that the glorious museum on Poklonnaya Gora, which we will visit today, was finished in time. It is, of course, a unique building. It is truly a tribute to the memory of all those who took part, to all those who did not live to see this day.

[Unidentified voice] Thank you to the press. We'll meet on Poklonnaya Gora [words indistinct]. Thank you Boris Nikolayevich. [end recording]

Yeltsin Congratulates War, Labor Veterans

LD0905082994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS—President Yeltsin has cordially congratulated war and labour veterans on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). "You displayed remarkable endurance, courage, heroism and selflessness at the front line and on the home front. All your life, your military and labour accomplishments are an example to be followed by the modern generation. We are paying tribute of respect to you for all you have done for the motherland. We are all under obligation to you. The Russian state will do its utmost for making your life easier," President Yeltsin's congratulatory message said.

Grachev Addresses Victory Day Rally

LD0905100494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0820 GMT 9 May 94

[Speech by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a Victory Day rally in Moscow—live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] of the Great Patriotic War, dear front line soldiers, comrades at arms: Today is truly a sacred day. It is 49 years since a Soviet soldier wrote on the wall of the Reichstag building in Berlin and the renowned Marshal Zhukov put his signature to the document on the full and unconditional surrender by Nazi Germany. No matter how much time passes, no matter how many epochs replace one another, the date 9 May 1945 will remain forever in the memory and hearts of our people. Eternal glory to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War!

Looking back on what happened almost half a century ago, one finds oneself wondering whether there is another people in the world capable of such self-sacrifice and deserving of such undying glory and respect. We bow low to you for your loyalty to the oath, for your heroism, for you love of your motherland, and for your anguish at its destiny. The Russian Army is proud of your exploits and of your victory. Today's festivities on Poklonaya Gora, a sacred place of Russian combat glory, is our tribute to the memory [passage indistinct] born on the threshold of the great victory is, undoubtedly symbolic.

Russia's armed forces are the heirs of the Soviet armed forces, of its best traditions and victories. In the name of the soldiers of the Russian Army, of the leadership of the Defense Ministry, let me congratulate you personally with all my heart on Victory Day. Russian soldiers wish those who fought in that war, all who made their contribution to the great victory, good spirits, optimism, as many unclouded, happy days as possible, and, of course, good health. The years are relentless, but you still have a lot to give, dear veterans. Thank you for finding the time and strength to meet the soldiers and sailors, for helping them spiritually, for helping them find their place in the military system.

Dear friends, in exactly one year from now, on a May day just like this, it will be half a century since the victory in the Great Patriotic War. Here on Poklonnaya Gora a great monument will be unveiled in honor of the people's heroic deed. I am sure it will become our national sacred object, a symbol of the recognition and gratitude which the descendents of the victors cannot help but feel.

Congratulations, dear veterans! Honor and glory to you! Endless thanks for your selflessness, your soldier's duty and patience, your loyalty to the ideals of patriotism and love of your fatherland! Thank you.

Deputy Defense Minister Kokoshin on Victory Day

LD0805195694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 May 94

[Interview with Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, by Mayak observer Viktor Levin on 8 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Levin] Victory Day is a great holiday. How are the Armed Forces celebrating it and what does this holiday mean for them?

[Kokoshin] Of course, they are celebrating the holiday in a solemn manner, in accordance with the rituals that have taken shape in the Soviet Army and those new ones that have appeared in the Russian Army. Our pre-revolutionary army traditions are being vigorously revived in symbols and in the traditions of officers' assemblies.

But what I regard as extremely important is the spirit of victory and o victors. You know, we need the spirit of 1945 today, too, but in peaceful life. We need much more self-confidence and we must believe that we will create a powerful and prosperous economy with armed forces that correspond to our needs, armed forces that would be part of a civil democratic society. These armed forces will be powerful enough to be formidable, while posing a threat to nobody. I think that herein lies, perhaps, the meaning of our great holiday of Victory Day which, I am sure, will be celebrated 100, 200, 300, and even 500 years from now, because this was our country's and people's hour of true glory. This was a great day of victory over the darkest forces of Nazism that ever existed in human history. I hope this will never be forgotten. Ours is a long-suffering people but by its sufferings it redeemed the fate of today's developed and prosperous states, and we should be one of them.

Opposition Groups Hold Rally, Parade in Moscow

LD0905083394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A rally and a parade in connection with anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War are being staged in the capital by representatives of the opposition parties and movements. The National Salvation Front, the Russian Popular Alliance, the Agrarian Party, and the Russian Communist Party are among the initiators of these mass actions. The route and the procedure of the rallies were agreed with the Mosow mayor's office. The organisers of the rallies have accepted responsibility for the behavior of the demonstrators. The Union of Officers led by Stanislav Terekhov will also take part in the actions.

Rutskoy: 'Opposition Will Soon Come to Power'

LD0905085594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0757 GMT 9 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 9 May—A ceremony to consecrate a cross in memory of those who died on 3-4 October 1993 was held today not far from the former House of Soviets [White House] in Moscow. The cross was consecrated by Bishop Arseniy of Istra, vicar of the patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. About 100 people took part in the ceremony.

Aleksandr Rutskoy, the former deputy president of the Russian Federation, who attended the ceremony, said he is confident that the Russian opposition will soon come to power, and without bloodshed.

Zhirinovskiy Says 'Strong Army' Needed for Foreign Policy

LD0705164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Russia needs a strong army which would help to pursue an efficient foreign policy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy declared at a meeting in Moscow devoted to the 49th anniversary of the victory over the fascist Germany.

In his words, "the West has the aim to collapse our army and to make Russia's peoples fight each other." "They have destroyed us as a military and political rival and have turned the country into a flee market," Zhirinovskiy said.

At the same time he underlined: "Everybody who encroaches upon Russia's interests must know that in 3-4 years Russian army will stand on the land of its adversaries."

"If I were Stalin, I would have ordered to our divisions to inflict a preventive strike against Germany on June 20 and would have destroyed the German army," said Zhirinovskiy and noted the following: "We do not want any war but currently adversaries pose threat to Russia from each side."

"If the enemy stands near our borders and the war is unavoidable it is necessary to inflict the first strike," declared Zhirinovskiy. In his words, one should prevent Russian-American exercises on the Totsk test range because "50 years ago analogical exercises of the Soviet and German forces finished with the forty first year."

Zhirinovskiy promised that when the LDPR is at power it will bring order in this nation and will put an end to crime. He spoke in favor of creation "of special courts over bandits: there is no need to organize long trials—punishment, including shooting on the spot, should await the criminals."

According to Zhirinovskiy, "the present authorities have made the greatest part of our population poor and miserable." In his opinion, "the president should dismiss Ministers Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin, Aleksandr Shokhin, Anatoliy Chubays, Sergey Shakhray, and Andrey Kozyrev, but it will be best of all if the whole ruling political team resigns."

Zhirinovskiy believes that this autumn the situation in Russia will sharply worsen, many factories will be stopped and political crisis will seize the country. "The authorities will be forced to hold early elections and under this situation we must do everything so that the president, the government, and the parliament will become ours," Zhirinovskiy said.

At the same time he complained about lack of objectivity on the part of mass media and declared that "correspondents are agents to whom the CIA pays for their lie about Zhirinovskiy." About 700 people were listening Zhirinovskiy's speech at the meeting held near the metrostation Sokolniki.

Rutskoy Confirms Intention To Run For Presidency

LD0605122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Russia's former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy intends to take part in the presidential elections and hopes he will be backed by "his" party, Popular Party Free Russia (PPFR). He confirmed this in an interview with ITAR-TASS, saying: "If I am nominated, I will run".

Aleksandr Rutskoy admitted that he is no longer related to the Civic Union coalition, of which he used to be one of the leaders. Rutskoy explained: "I did not distance myself from the Civic Union, on the contrary, its leaders have distanced themselves from me". He added that the latter, particularly leader of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy "betrayed those who was at the sources of the movement".

As concerns the PPFR, of which he is an honorary chairman, Rutskoy said that not all of its members "took a firm stand during the September-October events" (Rutskoy was referring to armed resistance to President Yeltsin's decision to disband the parliament in the autumn of 1993) and had to leave the party. The PPFR is planning to hold a congress this month to consider the party's new rules and program and "identify positions with a view to winning the new elections and conduct reforms in the interests of the people".

As concerns his part in the last autumn events, Aleksandr Rutskoy confirmed that he continues to think that his actions were right. "What else could be done, if we acted in conformity with the laws of the land, in conformity with the constitution".

According to Rutskoy, about 500 people were killed in October and not 149 as officially reported.

Responding to a question about his relations with former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Rutskoy said there were differences between them but they were not of "principled nature".

The former vice-president said he is now working on several books. One of them, "The Collapse of a Great Power", will present an objective analysis of "what happened to us and how we found our selves in this disgraceful situation". Another book "will set forth new approaches to state building and economic reforms, a political program and a new Russian idea as I see it".

Interior Ministry, Intelligence Service Issue Statement

LD0705163694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 7 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 7 TASS—A joint statement of public relations centers of the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service and the Interior Ministry was made here today to comment on recent media reports claiming a "certain confrontation" between the two institutions, including the Counter-Intelligence Service's explosion of "a criminal group of high-ranking staffers of the Interior Ministry".

"The Federal Counter-Intelligence Service has detained an ex- staffer of the Moscow Regional Interior Department's Punishment Execution Division (dismissed in April 1994) and a senior investigator of the Russian Interior Ministry's Investigation Committee on charge of currency rules' violation (Article 88 of the Russian Criminal Code), abuse of office (Article 170) and bribing (Article 174, part 1). They have been arrested," says the document.

"A staffer of the bar has been arrested on charge of bribing (Article 174, Part 1). His case will be investigated by the Russian procurator general's office. All the three were charged on May 6. None of high-ranking staffers of the Russian Interior Ministry is involved in this case," it stresses.

"The Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service and the Interior Ministry would like to draw attention to joint actions of the Service and the Ministry as regards this case. This is a regular practice. The stand of Service and Ministry heads on corruption, abuse of office and other crimes committed by their staffers is clear: Reliability and pure morals of staffers and security of services are topical for the whole law-enforcement system.

"Exposure and prevention of corruption in the law-enforcement bodies and other state structures are direct duties of counter- intelligence and interior bodies, their work to ensure national security envisaged by the current legislation.

"Coordinated efforts of the law-enforcement bodies and secret services, interaction and close cooperation of interior bodies and counter-intelligence are the main condition, obligatory and natural element of their successful measures, in particular those against dangerous crimes.

"Staffers of the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counter- Intelligence Service have held a number of successful joint operations to stop activities of many

dangerous criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking, arms sales and antics contraband. The comprehensive operations of Putina, Tral and Arsenal were a success.

"In this connection public relations centers of the Russian Interior Ministry and the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service think that rumors claiming confrontation and the "war of monsters"—the Ministry and the Service, are nothing but a provocation that affects the common cause, measures against crime and corruption, provision of security of individuals, society and the state," says the statement.

Travkin on Appointment as Government Minister

LD0605193294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] There has been an unexpected appointment to the government's ranks. Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, State Duma deputy and head of administration in Shakhovskoy rayon [Moscow oblast], has been appointed a member of the Russian Government. The relevant decree, INTERFAX reports, was signed by President Yeltsin. Travkin's range of duties is not specified. Here is what Travkin himself had to say when interviewed by our correspondent:

[Begin Travkin recording] A consideration ever since 1992 and the start of the reforms has been how to communicate between the grassroots level, where the reforms take hold, and the level where they are planned, conceived and designed, and how to speed up the possibility of making adjustments and having direct contacts between the rayon and the government so that it is possible to respond promptly. It is in this connection that I have been made a member of the government, but it is as minister without portfolio. [end recording]

Nikolay Travkin did not rule out the possibility that the heads of administration of other rayons would also be brought into the government. However, it is necessary here, Travkin said, to consider what the government will gain by this. Indeed, Shakhovskoy rayon has shown in practice its approach to reforms, and only in similar cases can the heads of other administrations count on receiving government portfolios, Nikolay Travkin emphasized.

Agrarian Union Chairman Not To Sign Accord

LD0805150494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] On Sunday the chairman of Russia's Agrarian Union Vasiliy Starodubtsev told Interfax that he would not sign the Civic Accord agreement. He said the Agrarians retained enough sense to reject the document. The Agrarian Union brings together all the major farms and farming facilities of Russia.

In April the Union's Council sent an open letter to President Yeltsin. According to Starodubtsev, it demanded the right to join the conciliatory commission's efforts to polish the document and devise a mechanism for its realization.

The Union was still waiting for an answer from the president.

Although the Russian farmers welcomed every wise, well-intended and long-term proposal, Starodubtsev said they would never welcome moves to do them in and destroy Russia.

Starodubtsev saw the Civic Accord agreement as suicidal. Even if Yeltsin invited the Union to sign the Civic Accord agreement, Starodubtsev would not sign. He was confident that the conclusion of agreements with those who worked to destroy the countryside was immoral.

Media Union Refuses To Sign Social Accord

MK0705080094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "K. Nesterov Does Not Sign Treaty on Accord"]

[Text] According to informed sources, during the signing ceremony for the Social Accord Treaty in the Kremlin yesterday, Kirill Nesterov, representative of the Russian Mass Media Creative Workers Trade Union, did not sign the proposed document. His colleagues point out that this is likely due to the fact that the 36 editorial offices—collective members of the trade union being evicted from by the government from 19 Novyy Arbat—have not yet been provided with suitable work premises.

Social Accord Pact Seen Lacking 'Specificness'

PM0605132794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Orlov article: "Its Effectiveness Is Beyond Doubt, But Could Be Increased"]

[Text] Will the Social Accord Treaty, which was opened for signing 28 April 1994, be productive? A section of the political forces and the mass media answered this question in the negative, asserting that no real mechanisms exist for implementing this document. In our view this is not so. For all its outward lack of conflict and its "smoothness," the treaty imposes quite definite obligations on the parties to it.

The Federation Council and the State Duma, for example, have clearly defined the contents of the legislative acts which will be adopted in the very near future: a constitutional law on the government, a law on the budget, civil and land codes, a code of labor laws, tax and banking legislation, laws on the minimum living wage, on the delimitation of jurisdiction and powers between the Russian Federation and its components, on local

self-management, on the fight against crime and corruption, and on benefits for scientific, cultural, educational, and health care establishments (Paragraph 3 Section 2, Paragraph 2 Section 3, Paragraph 1 Section 5, and Paragraph 5 Section 6 of the Social Accord Treaty). This predetermines parliament's stable and constructive work style.

The toughest restrictions have been placed on the trade unions. Their obligation "not to hold or participate in the organization of strikes for the purpose of redistributing budget funds or allocating to individual sectors or territories subsidies or benefits relating to state credits or taxation..." (Paragraph 4 Section 2 of the treaty) signifies the end of "solidarity strikes," which have had such a negative effect on the socioeconomic and political situation in the country.

At the same time the obligations assumed by the government and the associations of entrepreneurs and commodity producers are clearly nonspecific and therefore inadequate. This was precisely the reason why many potential supporters of the Social Accord Treaty did not participate in the assembly's work. How, then, can the treaty's provisions be concretized so as to make them considerably more effective?

World practice in such agreements (which attests, incidentally, that the Social Accord Treaty is not the fruit of office creativity by the President's Administration) attests to the need for rigid concretization of measures implemented within the agreement's framework, with an indication of deadlines. Thus, within the framework of the economic stabilization law adopted by the U.S. Congress in August 1971 R. Nixon's administration undertook the following measures on the basis of agreements with employers and labor unions: In August 1971 prices and wages were frozen by the government for 90 days. Thereafter it was permitted to increase them under government control—prices by 2.5 percent, wages by 5.5 percent a year. At the third stage all restrictions were made voluntary, while retaining state arbitration. Finally, the fourth stage, whose implementation was completed by May 1974, proposed the restoration of the practice of a controlled increase in prices and wages. The implementation of the "social contract" in Britain was different. In the summer of 1975 this agreement was concluded between H. Wilson's government and the trade unions for a period of two years. The trade unions voluntarily pledged to limit their wage increase demands to 10 percent a year in exchange for specific promises by the government to curb the inflation index. Of course, in both the aforesaid situations not all the proposed measures were fulfilled, but they had been planned specifically and not in the form of phrases like "develop the structural restructuring of ecopolitics" (Paragraph 1 Section 2 of the Social Accord Treaty).

So, specificness is the feature which is so lacking in the agreement which has been opened for signing. The elaboration of the economic appendix to it, clearly recording the obligations of the government, the entrepreneurs, and the trade unions in respect of macroeconomic indicators, will make it possible, in our view, not only to expand the circle of "signatories"—after all, this is not that important—but also to create real conditions for stabilizing the situation in the country.

Social Accord Pact 'Life Belt for Society'

PM0605134794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Aleksandr Batygin and Yevgeniy Skukin report: "Signatures of Reconciliation. More Signatures Appeared Under Social Accord Treaty Yesterday"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before the ceremony began, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondents turned to those who had been invited to St. Vladimir's Hall to put their signatures to the accord document.

"The treaty which we are signing," Yelena Voldemarova, chairman and coordinator of the Moscow Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, said, "is something Russia undoubtedly needs. But it is more the initial form of accord rather than the only necessary one. With its help we at the level of political parties and the three branches of power are—figuratively speaking—drawing up the ground rules. But genuine accord cannot be achieved unless all strata of the population are involved in the process. In particular, this is the task being set by the Russian Land Movement [Rossiyskoye Zemskoye Dvizheniye], of which I am the chairman."

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What specifically do you plan to do?

[Voldemarova] First and foremost we need to create the legal possibility for transformations. A board of trustees has now been set up on the initiative of the Land Movement, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, the Union of Russian Small Towns, and the Russian Local Self-Government Union. This is a coordinating structure for implementing local self-government. If we succeed in initiating the adoption by parliament of a law on local self-government, then, in our view, we will have taken a real step toward nationwide accord.

"The accord is a life belt for society," in the view of the famous economist Pavel Bunich, who was representing the Union of Industrialists and Leaseholders in the Kremlin. "It could be of educational importance. For instance, since the start of the year the State Duma has not passed a single economic law. The accord document will prompt parliamentarians to move in this direction. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that the recession does not continue this year. This is not wishful thinking. The decline cannot continue, otherwise it will be a collapse, not a recession!"

In the opinion of Vladimir Bashmachnikov, president of the Association of Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives, in economic activity it is time to stop

"pulling the blanket" only over ourselves and living on the basis of narrow departmental or regional interests. He believes that the agreement being signed is also aimed at preventing extremes and at stopping people from resorting to tough measures.

...The treaty has been signed by representatives of the Agro-Industrial Union of Russia, the Union of Young Entrepreneurs, the Chamber of Trade and Industry, the Interregional Society of Merchants, commercial banks....

Those present in St. Vladimir's Hall were addressed by Russian Federation Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. [passage omitted]

Zyuganov Comments on 9 May, Accord Treaty

LD0605190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russian Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov refuted in an interview with Interfax the allegations on mass opposition rallies on May 9. "For our party everything will be within the scope of law. May 9 will be just Victory Day," he emphasized.

Zyuganov announced that the Communist Party continued to work in the conciliatory commission on the final version of the treaty on civil accord. He repeated that he had submitted the proposals put forward at the recent conference of the Communist Party to the Russian president during the signing ceremony in the Kremlin. Zyuganov himself did not sign the treaty. "We are waiting for a reply and we are ready to discuss the problems," he said. The present text of the document does not conform with aspirations to the national accord, Zyuganov suggested. "This is an accord by officers. Social accord is something different. It must come from the people. There can be no reconciliation in order to rob the people and to destroy the country," Zyuganov said.

"On the other hand, it does not give much to entrepreneurs. At the moment entrepreneurs can only sell money instead of producing something," Zyuganov remarked.

Speaking at a meeting of veterans of the Great Patriotic War (as World War II is known in Russia) dedicated to the 49-year anniversary of victory, Zyuganov repeated that the Communists were seeking the restoration of the USSR. He also apologized for the criminals who had been the party members and had betrayed their supporters. Now only people representing the cream and the conscience of the nation remain in the Communist Party, Zyuganov reassured.

Latest Executive Decrees, Edicts Reported

PM0605152794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed "Monitoring" report: "Documents"]

[Text] On Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's instructions, a Russian Federation National Committee To Prepare for and Participate in the World Summit in the Interests of Social Development has been formed.

The national committee was set up in the light of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution on holding a world meeting in Copenhagen in March 1995. Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov was confirmed as national committee chairman.

The Russian president has signed an Edict "On State Supervision and Monitoring of Compliance With Russian Federation Legislation on Labor and Labor Protection."

Pending the adoption of a legislative act on the state labor inspectorate, state supervision and monitoring of compliance with Russian Federation legislation on labor and labor protection is carried out by the Federal Labor Inspectorate under the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor—"Rostrudinspektsiya."

The Russian Federation Government has signed a decree "On the Partial Amendment of Rates of Export Customs Duties" as ratified by the 30 October 1993 decree No. 1103 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers (Government), under which, in particular, the rate of export customs duties on zinc and items made from zinc is set at a level of 30 ECU [European Currency Units] per 1,000 kilograms.

By decree of the Russian Federation Government, amendments and additions to the statute on registration taxes for officially registering computer programs, databases, and integrated circuit topologies, which was ratified by decree No. 793 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers (Government) of 12 August 1993, have been introduced. Among other things, the levels of registration taxes indicated in paragraphs one and two for the implementation of activities linked with the official registration of computer programs, databases, and integrated circuit topologies and for the implementation of activities linked with the registration of contracts for computer programs, databases, and integrated circuit topologies have been amended by the decree.

Under the government decree "On Fundamental Measures for State Support of the Economy of the Republic of Buryatia in 1994-1995," 7.6 billion rubles were allocated to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Buryatia in 1994 from the reserve fund of the Russian Government.

Poll Shows Muscovites Support NATO Involvement

LD0605140094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Zhilyakova]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS— A possible Russian decision to join NATO will hardly provoke public discontent, judging by the results of a public opinion poll held in Moscow by the Mnenie independent sociological service headed by Grigoriy Pashkov.

Russians no longer consider NATO to be hostile. Every third out of the 1,000 respondents described NATO as an neutral organization as regards Russian security. A total of 27 per cent are not against Russia's possible joining of NATO, and almost one half of them favor Russian involvement in NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

The recent NATO air strikes in former Yugoslavia have somehow shattered the Muscovites' calm attitude to NATO. The number of Moscow residents believing that NATO is a neutral organization decreased as compared to the January poll. Two thirds of the respondents do not think the air-strike decision was correct.

Shakhray on Government Program To Aid Far North

LD0805171294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The Russian Government is working out a new mechanism for state support to the north, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray has told INTERFAX. He said that the northern regions were today the hardest hit by the socioeconomic crisis, and because of the short Polar summer, delivery of cargoes to hundreds of districts takes over a year. Delivery of essential freight was previously financed through the credit system, but owing to high Central Bank interest rates, northern enterprises have been unable to repay these credits. The government is currently working on extending the effectiveness of an advantageous system of granting credits, and is setting up a federal fund to back delivery of goods to the north. This year over seven billion rubles are to be allocated from the state budget into the new fund. Supplies to the north will be interrupted unless state resources are transferred to the fund in good time, Sergey Shakhray pointed out.

Media Control Structure Scheme Said Lain to Rest

MK0605105094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 18/43 6-12 May 94 (Signed to press 5 May) p 4

[Unattributed report: "May We Avoid Above All Else.... Fund Dies Before Having Been Born"]

[Text] Yet another planned noose around the neck of this country's media is unlikely to work. The idea for the creation of a new structure in "support of the mass media"—in addition to all that already exist—has very long been floating around in the capital's political circles. Some time ago this idea even added up to a specific draft law "On a National Fund in Support of the Mass Media" whose elaboration was included in an official plan for the State Duma committee for information policy and liaison. The press went aflutter: the plan was for the Fund to take over control of all the money that comes from the budget (state subsidies) and the sprinkling of money that does not come from the budget, and make its own decisions on who gets it and who does not.

It goes without saying that the position of head of such a fund would be the most coveted morsel for mass media officials, because whoever took over this position would become Russia's key monopolist—he would be in a position to pull the strings that control the "fourth estate" any old time and to issue instructions on what and how should be published, on whether there should be a lobby today for metallurgy workers or for Gazprom. The draft law was supposed to go before the Duma Council at the end of April for the inclusion of this matter on the agenda. The Lord, however, has taken pity, and the draft law was quietly laid to rest by the sensible part of the deputies to the gushing joy of the scriveners. This is a veritable gift to the Russian press for its professional holiday—Press Day-94.

Economic Issues

Economics Ministry Reports Shortfall in Revenue

LD0605202494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1132 GMT 6 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Oleg Deyneko]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—Actual budgetary revenue in the first quarter of 1994 was lower than the sum envisaged by the draft budget, a BUSINESS-TASS correspondent was told in the Russian Economics Ministry. As is known, Russia's budget for 1994 has not yet been given final approval by the State Duma.

The total sum of arrears for the first quarter is R [rubles] 5.2 trillion, including R3.4 trillion owed to the federal budget, or 15 percent of anticipated revenue.

The trend has increased for priority to be given to payments to territorial budgets, to the detriment of the federal budget. Thus, according to the Economics Ministry's figures, on 1 January federal budget nonpayments constituted 58.1 percent of the total sum of nonpayments, but by 1 April this figure had risen to 64.7 percent.

Budgetary revenue in the first quarter of 1994 amounted to R17.4 trillion (not taking account of external economic activity), R6.9 trillion of which went into the federal budget.

Out of the total sum, the most significant revenue was from profits tax—R7 trillion, or 40.2 percent; from VAT—R4.8 trillion, or 27.6 percent; and from income tax from private individuals—R2.4 trillion, or 13.8 percent.

Economics Minister Seeks Improvement in Trade

LD0605124594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russia's Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin went to Warsaw on a one-day visit Friday to attend an East-West Conference on economic reform in East European countries and the former USSR.

As he reported in an interview with INTERFAX before his departure, at that meeting in Warsaw he intended to focus on the slow progress with lifting "glaring discriminatory restrictions against Russian commodities" on Western markets. In his words, damage from these restrictions totals three billion dollars a year. He intends to suggest that a group of experts specially meet at the economic forum to tackle this problem.

He emphasized that Russia had been adopting effective measures to improve the investment climate for foreign businessmen. By some Western estimates, he continued, Russia "could annually absorb 40-50 billion dollars in foreign investment."

There were 13,500 joint ventures involving foreign assets in Russia by the end of the first quarter of this year. This year's direct investment in the Russian economy amounted to 2.6 billion dollars.

Fuel, Energy Ministry Requests Extra Oil Export Quotas

MK0605115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Oil Exports Planned To Go Up"]

[Text] The Fuel and Energy Ministry has requested that the Russian Government allocate an extra quota to export 2-3 million tonnes of crude oil with a corresponding overall increase in Russian enterprises' oil export quotas for 1994. The ministry thinks that oil exports will guarantee that Western banks will give loans to restructure the coal industry and to close mines that have no future prospects. At present, the Fuel and Energy Ministry and the Rosugol company are conducting talks with representatives of German and Portuguese firms and the World Bank on possible cooperation in the implementation of this program.

Report by Ministry of Economics on 1st Quarter Debts

LD0705082694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1248 GMT 6 May 94

[BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Oleg Deyneko]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—The defaulted debt of enterprises of various sectors of industry is growing at a rate which is substantially greater than the rate at which credit investment is growing, according to a report "On the State of the Russian Economy (On the Results of the 1st Quarter of 1994)" drawn up by the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics.

Credit investment (debt owed under credit issued by all banks and credit institutions) grew six times over the year and amounted to 30.5 trillion rubles as of 1st January 1994 and by the end of the first quarter this sum amounted to 39.8. Experts of the Ministry of Economics believe the growth of credit investments is outstripping the growth in the volume of products which have been dispatched and the volume of work which has been carried out. This bears witness to the fact that credit resources are going not to the expansion of production, adding to enterprises' circulating capital, but to the circulation of goods and money. The ceiling of credit resources was set at 11.48 trillion rubles in the first quarter, and at 13.6 in the second quarter. The lion's share of it is going to cover the budget deficit.

According to data of the Ministry of Economics, in the first quarter, debts owed by enterprises amounted to 69 trillion rubles, including 25.8 in defaulted payments. Debts owed to enterprises amounted to 67.9 trillion, including 27.3 in defaulted payments.

Mutual non-payments by enterprises and organizations are characterized by the following figures: debts of purchasers—56.9 trillion rubles, including 31.3 in defaulted payments; debts to suppliers—44.6, including 20.4 trillion rubles in defaulted payments.

Investment in Russian Economy Continues To Fall

LD0605171194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—Investment in the Russian economy has continued to fall this year. During the first quarter of the year over 12 trillion rubles, originating from all sources of finance, was invested. But this was 28 percent less than the corresponding period last year, ITAR-TASS learned at the Russian Economics Ministry.

State- and municipally-owned enterprises and organizations accounted for 59 percent of all investment and 45 percent of state investment. Last year the equivalent figures were 66 and 53 percent.

About 50 percent of all this investment was spent on construction of production facilities. During the same period last year the equivalent figure was 65 percent.

At the majority of the most important projects, financed from the federal budget, work is now at a virtual standstill. This is jeopardizing the fulfillment of this year's program for commissioning of the most important economic projects. The Economics Ministry experts say that this situation has been brought about by delays in financing projects from the budget and the failure to release preferential credit earmarked for investment.

The situation with construction projects that are financed from local budgets or nonbudget sources is very difficult. Work on most of these has stopped, since subcontractors cannot continue work if they are not paid for what they do.

The critical state of capital construction has had a negative impact on other spheres of the economy. During the first quarter investment in most sectors averaged about eight-10 percent of the target for the year as a whole.

Foreign investment in the Russian economy remains at a low level. Such investment totalled more than 180 million dollars in the first quarter. This sum constitutes the authorized capital contributed to more than 1,300 joint ventures. However, direct investment of foreign capital actually injected into these ventures, including reinvestment and loans, is estimated at approximately 2.6 billion dollars since the beginning of this year.

Moscow Ready To Halt Payments to Federal Budget

LD0805165794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The Moscow government is ready to stop transfer of money to the federal budget which is then allocated to Moscow from the budget, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov declared at the sitting of the Moscow government on Saturday which was discussing results of the fulfillment of the budget of the city of Moscow for 1993.

Luzhkov believes that the Moscow leadership is forced to make this due to permanent debts of the federal budget to the Russian capital. As the Minister of the Moscow government Yuriy Korostelev, leader of the finances department, reported to Interfax, as of January 1, 1994 this debt was 117 billion rubles, and as of early May - 126 billion rubles.

The resolution of the capital's government says that "the program on social-economic development of the city for 1993 has been successfully fulfilled." At the same time the resolution points out that "the results of the budget's fulfillment have failed to create a base for financial support of additional measures and to comprehensively form the funds for the starting financing of this year."

In the course of the sitting chief of the state tax inspectorate in Moscow Dmitriy Chernik reported that a total of 2,635 trillion rubles and 58 million dollars have been transferred to Moscow's budget at the expense of taxes collected on the territory of the city. In his estimates, about 21 trillion rubles will be transferred to the city's budget at the expense of taxes. The city's budget will be approximately 21 trillion rubles. A more precise prognosis of the capital's social-economic development and Moscow's draft budget for 1994 are to be submitted to the Moscow government before June 15.

On the proposal of Yuriy Luzhkov the Moscow government dismissed several people guilty of using budget funds at their own disposal. In particular, it fired chief of the medical department of the Western administrative district where the budget funds were spent for the procurement of "21 cars for non-medical purposes and payment for foreign business trips."

According to Luzhkov, "today there is no more complex and important work but the work aimed an efficient search for ways to replenish Moscow's budget funds."

Democratic Party Leader: Government Must Reform Economy

LD0705221994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 May 94

[Interview with Nikolay Travkin by correspondent Sergey Medvedev, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia; from the "Novosti" newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Medvedev] I would like to introduce you to a new minister of the Russian Federation, you all know him well, Nikolay Ilyich Travkin, appointed minister without portfolio only yesterday by a presidential decree.

Nikolay Ilyich, this appointment is quite unusual, at least it seems so to journalists: a member of the opposition, an opponent being appointed a member of the government. What will you be doing in the government without a portfolio?

[Travkin] First, a few words about opposition. We have two types of opposition in society—the criticizing opposition, which simply keeps barking and the working opposition. I had nothing to do with the former. [passage omitted]

The government today has two tasks: to reform Russia's economy, not just the oil and gas sector or agriculture. Second, we must build the state, with all its institutions. [passage omitted]

[Medvedev] Are we to understand that you will take a decision in the government, carry it out in your Shakhovskoy rayon, and then, as leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, criticize it?

[Travkin] No, that is not how it will be.

[Medvedev] In effect, you will be a government representative in the Duma?

[Travkin] No. Why? I was a deputy and leader of a faction in the Duma and remain such. I will represent the interests of the local economy.

[Medvedev] A representative of the local economy at the top?

[Travkin] This is right. We cannot be apes and set up everything in the rayons that has been set up at the level of the federation. [passage omitted]

Chubays Appeals To Russians on Privatization

LD0605174794 Moscow MTK Television in Russian 1430 GMT 6 May 94

[Appeal by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays to the Russian people; from the "Around and About Moscow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Video caption says: Appeal to the Russian people by Anatoliy Chubays, Russian Federation Government deputy prime minister] [Chubays] Voucher privatization is ending in Russia now. It is creating the conditions for an upturn in the economy, laying the foundations for the way to a stable society and well- being. Today not everyone has decided what to do with their privatization vouchers. I understand that this is a difficult question for many—where can they invest their voucher profitably, how not to miscalculate.

I want to tell you that in April and May enterprises from the oil and gas industry, non-ferrous metallurgy, and telecommunications, high-tech enterprises from the defense complex, and major Russian exporters will be put forward at voucher auctions. This is the most reliable and profitable sector of our economy. There is still time before 30 June to think about this. But I would advise you to hurry and not put off until tomorrow what can be done today.

The choice is yours. I wish you success.

Report Shows 18.6 Percent of Enterprises Unprofitable

PM0605144194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 First Edition p 1

[BIZNES-TASS report: "More and More Loss-Makers"]

[Text] The number of loss-making industrial enterprises in Russia has more than doubled in the first quarter of the year, the report "On the State of the Russian Economy" prepared by the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and obtained by BIZNES-TASS states. As of late March these include 18.6 percent of all industrial enterprises—as opposed to 8.2 percent at the end of 1993.

The largest percentage of unprofitable enterprises has been registered in the fuel and energy complex—30.7 percent of them as against 17.2 percent at the start of the year, in second place is the food industry (20.8 percent as against 5.9 percent), third is metallurgy (17.2 percent as against 4.2 percent), and fourth is machine building (16 percent as against 6.2 percent).

The report stresses that the first quarter of 1994 has been the period which has seen the most considerable reduction in industrial output at any time during the course of the reforms—which is to a considerable extent related to the intensive impact of demand constraints on the economy.

Moscow TV Plays Airbus Black Box Recordings

LD0805220194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 8 May broadcast during the "Sunday" program an 8-minute video report by correspondent Natalya Chernyshova on the airbus crash in Siberia.

Chernyshova explains that this new report on the airbus crash in Siberia was compiled because "first of all, French experts and the engineers who developed the airbus came to Moscow this week, secondly—we have received the black box recording from unofficial sources, the same recording that we were refused at the Interstate Aviation Committee."

As the video shows the investigation team looking at graphs, the correspondent explains that the airbus flight was proceeding normally and that the son and daughter of "experienced" pilot Yaroslavl Kudrintskiy were thought to have entered the pilot's cabin about four hours into the flight. Clips of the recording are then played on three occasions accompanied by a transcription on-screen, the speakers are not identified.

"Can I turn this?"

"Yes, if you turn it to the left."

"Which way will the plane go?"

"To the left."

"And if you turn it to the right?"

"It will turn to the right."

"Turn (?it) round."

"Look from the ground when you turn it. Let us turn to the left. Turn it to the left."

"Is the plane turning or not?"

"It is turning well."

"Set it to normal attitude."

"We are moving to the right."

At this point the correspondent says there were two minutes, 25 seconds left before the plane crashes. The video then shows the type of black box being used today before returning to the second clip of recording.

"Why is the plane turning?"

"Is it turning by itself?"

"Yes."

"Why is it turning?"

"I do not know, you will not upset its course, will you?"

"Oh, what!"

"Kids..."

A graph then shows what was happening to the plane in the final seconds.

"Eldar, leave the cabin, crawl out to the back, Eldar."

"We are going very fast."

"I have turned it on."

"Yes. That's it. We are moving out, we are moving out."

"Put the lever to the right."

"We are going very fast. Shut off the gas."

"I have reduced it."

"It is all right. We will be out of it in a moment."

"There we are, all normal."

"Slowly, slowly...we're getting there."

At this point the aircraft impacted on the ground.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Grachev News Conference on State of Armed Forces

LD0605112094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has just held a news conference at the Russian Defense Ministry on the subject of the Russian Armed Forces being two years old—results and prospects. On the telephone with the details is our commentator Viktor Levin.

[Levin] Defense Minister Pavel Grachev spent an hour and a half speaking in detail about the state of affairs in the Russian Armed Forces, pointing out what has been achieved, and going into great lengths about the shortcomings. But probably the main thing which needs to be emphasized above all else is the fact that over the past two years the military, as the defense minister said, has begun to clearly realize the responsibility that lies with the Armed Forces.

The defense minister gave an assurance that Russia's Armed Forces have become a reliable state institution and the guarantor of stability in our Russian Federation. The realities, indeed, are these, Pavel Grachev said: the Armed Forces—and he expressed his immense gratitude to the soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers, officers, generals, and admirals—remain completely battleworthy.

At the same time, the defense minister noted that there are three tasks which require a solution at state level. They are, first and foremost, reliable and stable financing within the limits required by the Defense Ministry. Secondly, ensuring that the personnel are up to strength. According to the defense minister, one soldier now has to do the work of ten. This is the result of being under strength. The outcome of this is that the burden on young soldiers of 18 years of age is so great that many cannot stand up to it. In the defense minister's opinion, no matter what the army commanders do, this problem will not be solved without a state decision and without the Armed Forces being brought up to full strength. And the third conclusion was to ensure normal housing and living conditions for servicemen and their families. Pavel Grachev gave the following example: last year over 50,000 apartments were built. This is a whole town, but this is insignificantly small because over these past few years there has been a very great movement of troops from a number of states which are now considered to be foreign and even from the present states of the CIS.

Replying to questions, the minister dealt in detail on the problems of staging the joint Russian-American exercises at the Totskoye proving ground. According to Grachev, if we really want to mutually get rid of the image of an enemy and move towards partnership, these exercises are vital. He admitted that these exercises were of a symbolic nature: they were not military exercises in the pure sense, they were peace-keeping exercises, and he believes that they should definitely take place. One may think about the right time—it may be that summer is not the best time when the crops are ripening and the harvest coming up—but this issue is, I would say, a very minor one. The defense minister stressed several times that it was necessary to hold these exercises, for the sake of peace and for the sake of friendship. This is Viktor Levin, from the Ministry of Defense.

Further on Grachev Statement

PM0605183794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 1

[Vladimir Klimov report: "Proposing Our Own Partnership Program"]

[Text] What are the main results of the two years that have passed since the Russian Army was created? This question was answered by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, at a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists. The Armed Forces have become a reliable guarantor of the state and of the maintenance of stability in society.

Here are the results of the review of the winter training period—14 units were graded excellent and 61 good. Only 10 units and ships "flunked." The worst state of affairs prevails in the Pacific Fleet.

Much has been done during the two years, but even more fresh problems have cropped up. Just as before, attention will focus mainly on the strategic nuclear forces.

The Armed Forces will retain their five-branch structure at least until the year 2000. But each branch of the Armed Forces will undergo substantial changes. For example, seven regiments of the Strategic Missile Forces will be equipped with new technology. Special attention will be given to the creation of an air-space defense in the

Air Defense Forces. The Air Force has acquired two new commands. There are many complications in the Navy.

There is also the problem of manpower acquisition in the Armed Forces. Much has been written about the complexities of the draft and there is no point in repeating it. But the poor quality of contract recruitment poses a new problem.

The exercises which have been held not only demonstrated the degree of the troops' training but also highlighted the need for transition to territorial-administrative commands. Units and combined units of all branches of the Armed Forces must be subordinate to a single leader at regional level.

Army Gen. P. Grachev told the journalists a lot, but saved the main news item until the end of his statement. He emphasized that no international actions can succeed withot Russia, without its participation and approval. This was confirmed by events in Yugoslavia. NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program will also be impossible without it. But the program cannot be said to suit Russia in its present form. A decision has been made to elaborate our own alternative for partnership. Its name cannot contain the words "for Peace" because there cannot be any partnership for war. The Russian program will be examined by the [Russian] Security Council and will then be endorsed by the Russian Federation president. The Russian minister will present our program 24 May, when all NATO countries' defense ministers will assemble in Brussels.

Grachev on CIS Peackeepers

LD0605135394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Shevtsov and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—Peacekeeping functions in Georgia could be successfully carried out, alongside the Russians, by units and subunits of the armed forces of the CIS states, and especially the participants in the collective security treaty. This was stated at a news conference today by Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev.

Russia, the minister noted, would be grateful to the United Nations if, during the fulfillment of peacekeeping functions in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, representatives of this international organizations could participate as observers.

The defense minister also said that during a conversation with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali during his recent visit to Moscow, he obtained agreement in principle for Russian participation in peacekeeping activities in Georgia.

Comments on Military Service

LD0705201694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 7 May 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] We are changing our usual program schedule today. We normally give over our Saturday broadcast to military news from the countries of the Near Abroad. The significance of today's Russian Federation events compels us to change this rule.

Today is the second anniversary of the day that Russia's President Boris Yeltsin announced the creation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces. The head of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry has issued the relevant festive decree, and at a news conference in the Defense Ministry Army General Pavel Grachev summed up some results.

[Begin Grachev recording] For us military men, the last two years have been extremely full of events, facts and deeds, and have undoubtedly been most difficult from all points of view, economic, political, and purely military and—I stress in particular—from the morale and psychological point of view. I am confident that over these two years we military men have very clearly realized, probably as never before, what special responsibility lies upon the Army and servicemen. One of the main results of the two years we have lived through, I believe, consists in the fact that our Armed Forces have become a reliable institution of the state, a guarantor of stability in society, and play an important role in maintaining the integrity and security of Russia. All this cannot but bear testament above all to the maturity of the absolute majority of servicemen and their understanding of their vocation and of those difficult processes that are today taking place in the Army, and indeed, in society as a whole.

It is in the Army, in these conditions, that genuine patriots of our motherland are now serving, the flower of our society, serving conscientiously, for love of the fatherland, for love of their native country, and not for rubles and dollars. Such is the reality and truth. No matter what difficulties Russia may now be experiencing, no matter what at times unresolved problems confront the Army, the Armed Forces—thank God, and a big thank you for this steadfastness and understanding to our soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals—remain wholly combat ready and controllable [upravlyayemyy]. [end recording]

Comments on Partnership for Peace

LD0805120094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1059 GMT 8 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 8 May—"Stability and maximum harmony in society—that is what the army wants," said

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's minister of defense, at a meeting today with the personnel of the Tamanskaya Motorized Infantry Division on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Russian Army and in connection with Victory Day which, in the words of the minister, has become a "day of spiritual unity and kinship" for all Russians.

The Russian Army's two years had been crammed full of events and novel tasks, the minister noted. "It has been a time for appreciating the enormous responsibility which has been laid upon the army," he said. "A majority of servicemen have displayed maturity and an understanding of their purpose and of the complex processes underway in society." "Whatever interpretation is put on the tragic events of October 1993, it is now clear that the military averted civil war in Russia," Pavel Grachev believes.

According to the minister, "there are those who try to portray the army as weakened and bloodless and, in some cases, as a caricature of itself, in order to discredit it." "The reality is," in his opinion, "that the Armed Forces remain a reliable tool of the state and a guarantor of stability in society, in spite of the difficulties."

Replying to journalists' questions, Pavel Grachev noted there are now three departments—the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs and the Security Council—working on a conception of a partnership between Russia and the countries of Europe. "The president has approved what we are doing," the defense minsiter stressed. "He set us this task a long time ago." The proposals of experts and academics will be looked at in the middle of May at a session of the Security Council and then revealed on 24 May in Brussels. In his opinion, the Partnership for Peace program is of a declaratory nature and is void of specific proposals for cooperation and interaction between the countries of Europe. Furthermore, the role of Russia—"once again denied the capacity to have thoughts and make suggestions"—has not been reflected in the program. [passage omitted]

Defense Commission Determines Spending Priorities

MK0605101094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 6 May 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov report under the "Defense Ministry Meeting" rubric: "It is Bad Enough To Be Poor, But To Be Weak Is Even Worse"]

[Text] Nearly all Defense Ministry chiefs conferred behind closed doors yesterday for as long as two hours. The meeting chaired by both first deputy defense ministers—Andrey Kokoshin and Mikhail Kolesnikov, who is also chief of the General Staff—was prompted by a reason just as serious as any threat to the country's national security. Namely, money. Or, rather, by a lack of it. The Armed Forces have virtually no money even to pay salaries to officers and to maintain elementary combat readiness.

Participants in the meeting of the Defense Ministry's commission on financial support to the Armed Forces and the implementation of the state defense order faced a very complex task: to choose on what the ministry's rather meager funds should be spent. The military can hardly be reproached for insatiable appetites. For reasons of economy they have already reduced even mobilization targets and given up plans to procure many types of weapons. But this has improved the situation only marginally because the state debts to the Armed Forces and enterprises carrying out defense orders have exceeded 3 billion rubles.

At the same time, there is no longer any hope that the army will be rich enough to pull through on its own. A high-ranking official on the commission pointed out that "internal financial reserves of the Armed Forces have effectively been exhausted."

In the end, the meeting decided that money should be spent first of all on the payment of money allowances, supplying of military units with food and electric power, and also the maintenance of nuclear security. Even these areas, however, will not have guaranteed funding: the withdrawal of troops from foreign countries and their accommodation in Russia will require extra spending. As for weapons procurements, combat command, control, and communications equipment, high-precision weapons, and electronic warfare equipment will still be a priority.

The commission meeting results were summed up by Andrey Kokoshin. After the meeting he told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that "it is becoming harder and harder to ensure the combat efficiency of the Armed Forces given the current conditions of financing." Lower-ranking officials of the Defense Ministry, however, described the situation in the army in different, stronger expressions.

Pacific Fleet Will Continue Fighting Poachers

LD0705151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Russia's Pacific Fleet will launch a second stage of an operation to fight illegal fishing around June 20, when the crab and sturgeon season starts, a source in the fleet staff told Interfax.

During the first stage of the Putina (Fishing Season) '94 operation, begun on April 20, the fleet detained 20 Russian and four Japanese boats for breaking fishing regulations in the Russian waters of the Sea of Okhotsk. Altogether more than 100 Russian and over 20 Japanese fishing vessels have been examined.

The commander of the Pacific frontier forces, Vitaliy Sedykh, said most of the violations had been made by Russian boats, 20 of the 100 that had been checked either breaking the border zone regulations or fishing illegally or carrying contraband. Three boats have been

fined for dumping toxic substances into the sea. Another three were impossible to stop and went off to Japan but face arrest on their return.

Four naval patrol vessels, five patrol boats of the State Fishing Committee, 10 aircraft, 33 helicopters and space monitoring facilities have been involved during stage one of the operation, which is due to end on May 10 but may be extended.

Varennnikov Refuses Amnesty, SCSE Trial May Continue

LD0605203594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 6 May 94

[By TASS-CRIME correspondent Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—The military collegium of Russia's Supreme Court has confirmed to an ITAR-CRIME correspondent that it has received a petition from Valentin Varennikov in which he refuses to have the State Duma's amnesty decision applied with regard to himself. The collegium does not, however, know if any of the other accused in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] trial have communicated similar wishes.

As a TASS-CRIME correspondent learned, the formal accusation of high treason levelled at Varennikov and the other accused continues to remain in force, despite the amnesty, in so far as the procuracy general of the Russian Federation has not withdrawn it and, after protesting against the decision of Judge Ukolov at the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Court, has sought to bring the criminal case back to the military collegium for a final decision to be made.

At present, the "SCSE case" is "being examined" by Viktor Yaskin, military collegium judge of the Russian Federation and major general of the judiciary. By law, the continuation or cessation of legal proceedings depends on his decision alone. Since Varennikov has rejected the amnesty, there is a strong possibility that legal proceedings will be continued against him personally (this does not apply to those of the accused who declare their acceptance of the amnesty).

Radioactive Devices Stolen in Port of Nakhodka

LD0705120894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Eight control units from naval radiation-monitoring instruments containing the highly active radionuclides strontium-90 and three 90 [tri devyanosto] and plutonium-239 were stolen a few days ago from a laboratory in the maritime fishing-port of Nakhodka, in the Far East. INTERFAX learned this today from Russia's State Supervision Agency for Atomic Power Capabilities, quoting the department's Far Eastern district. The administration of the maritime fishing-port has informed Nakhodka's investigatory bodies of the occurrence. An investigation is underway.

Beloyarsk AES Sodium Leak 'Being Repaired'

LD0605170094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 6 May—The faulty valve in circuit No. 2 of the third set at the Beloyarsk nuclear power station, which caused today's leak of nonradioactive sodium, is now being repaired, ITAR-TASS was told by the press centre of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy.

Specialists stress that there was not a fire at the station. The incident involved only the ignition of liquid sodium escaping into the atmosphere. This is a perfectly logical chemical reaction, which will cease once the valve has been repaired and sodium stops leaking into the atmosphere. The accident has been assessed at level one on the seven-point international scale of incidents at nuclear power stations. [passage omitted]

Text of Federation Council Decree on Farm Reforms

PM0605151194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Decree "On Conducting Agrarian Reform in the Russian Federation and Reviving and Developing Agro-Industrial Production Through the Year 2000," signed by V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council, and dated 27 April 1994]

[Text] The Federation Council notes that in accordance with the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council decree dated 26 February 1994 No. 51-I FC "On Legislative Support for the Functioning of the Russian Federation Agro-Industrial Complex," the Federation Council Agrarian Policy Committee, together with the Russian Federation Government, Federation Council and State Duma committees, and federal organs of state power organized parliamentary hearings 18 March and 4 April 1994 on questions connected with conducting agrarian reform in the Russian Federation and reviving and developing agro-industrial production through the year 2000.

The majority of participants in the parliamentary hearings recognized that the agrarian reform in the Russian Federation begun in 1991 is being conducted in the absence not just of a state program for transformations in the agro-industrial complex, but also of a scientifically validated concept of it.

At the same time, many of the edicts of the Russian Federation president and Russian Federation Government decrees and directives in accordance with which agrarian reform is being conducted are frequently contradictory, and sometimes simply wrong. They are not divided into phases, the measures carried out are not comprehensive, and it has not been determined to what extent they are effective. Decisions by representative organs of power on agrarian questions are frequently not carried out. As a result of the implementation of an ill-considered economic policy, the country's agro-industrial complex is in the grip of a serious crisis. Production of agro-industrial output is falling sharply. The country is becoming increasingly dependent on export purchases of food, which is leading to Russia's dependence on foreign states not only in terms of food and economics, but also politically.

Price, credit, taxation, and investment policy has completely wrecked the financial state of the sector and stopped the process of expanded reproduction in the agro-industrial complex.

Practically all farms have found themselves insolvent because of the unequal growth in the price of industrial and agricultural output.

State programs for the development of land fertility, agricultural machine-building, the construction of housing and public amenities, roads, and gas, electricity, water supply, and telephone communications plants in villages have been wound up.

Believing the aforementioned attitudes to reforming the agro-industrial complex to be profoundly wrong, the Federation Council decrees:

1. To instruct the Russian Federation Government:

To task the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, together with other interested Russian Federation ministries and departments, with doing further work on the state program for conducting agrarian reform in the Russian Federation and the program for reviving and developing agro-industrial production through the year 2000 as quickly as possible. To submit the government program for conducting agrarian reform in the Russian Federation for examination by the State Duma and the Federation Council no later than May 1994, and the program for reviving and developing agro-industrial production through the year 2000 no later than June 1994;

To elaborate and ratify concrete measures of protectionist policy for 1994 and 1995, ensuring a solution to the crisis and the stabilization of production in the agro-industrial complex;

Together with the Russian Federation Central Bank, to elaborate conditions for the preferential short-term and long-term crediting of the agro-industrial complex.

2. Within the process of work on the draft federal law "On Agricultural Scientific Institutions and Their Science and Production Base," to task the Federation Council Agrarian Policy Committee with conducting parliamentary hearings on the aforesaid draft law in May-June 1994.

[Signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council
Moscow
27 April 1994
No. 111-I FC

Next Duma Session To Be Held in New Building

PM0905081194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS column: "Duma Moving"]

[Text] The latest Duma Council session, scheduled for 10 May, will be held in a new venue—in the former USSR State Planning Committee building on Okhotnyy Ryad. The first plenary session of the Duma will be held there 11 May.

Valentin Kovelev, deputy chairman of the chamber, told us that "the move is going ahead actively, a number of services have already occupied their new offices."

Kozyrev Arrives in Murmansk for Victory Day

LD0805120694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Murmansk today. Our correspondent Yuriy Arkhipov reports by telephone:

[Arkhipov] Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister and Murmansk Oblast's deputy to the State Duma, was met at Murmansk airport by the head of the oblast administration, the commander of the Northern Fleet, and by representatives from the Russian Foreign Ministry in Murmansk. On this occasion, the aim of the minister's visit is to take part in Victory Day celebrations.

In an interview with journalists at the aircraft steps, he congratulated all the defenders of the Polar region on the holiday, and underlined that as our people managed to withstand the horrors of the 1941-45 war, there is no doubt it will be able to overcome today's difficulties.

Andrey Kozyrev went straight from the airport to Severomorsk, where he had a meeting with the officers of the aircraft carrier Admiral Nakhimov. An agreement to establish patronage ties between the oblast administration and the command of the aircraft carrier was signed on board the vessel. Andrey Kozyrev took part in the signing ceremony of this agreement.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev also had a conversation with Yevgeniy Komarov, head of the administration of Murmansk Oblast. The social and economic development of Murmansk Oblast based on the resources of the region was discussed during the meeting.

On 9 May the Russian foreign minister will take part in a procession of the inhabitants and guests of the city to the monument commemorating the defenders of the Polar zone—or as the northerners call the monument, Alesha—and lay flowers at the monument. In the second half of the day, Andrey Kozyrev will fly back to Moscow.

Dudayev Snubs UK; Chechen Opposition To Talk

MK0705090094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Report by Natalya Gorodetskaya under the "Caucasus" rubric: "Chechnya Breaks Relations With Britain. Chechen Opposition Starts Talks With Moscow"]

[Text] The Chechen Provisional Council has taken on responsibility for talks with Russia. In the opposition's view, since President Dzhokhar Dudayev does not want to establish normal relations with Russia, Moscow will finally have to bring troops into the Republic. In the very near future, a delegation of the Chechen opposition plans to fly to Moscow to hold talks with the Russian Federation Government on "the restoration of Chechnya's normal economic existence," as Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the Provisional Council, put it to INTERFAX. The opposition bets on Sergey Shakhray, "the Russian Federation minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional polities, who is disposed to close contacts with them;" a precise date of a meeting with him will be known on 10 May.

According to Mr. Avturkhanov, the question of Chechnya's sovereignty and its political status should be resolved by the people at a referendum and by the republic's constitutional authorities, elections for which can be held only after the situation returns to normal. The Chechen Provisional Council has not given up the hope that Ruslan Khasbulatov will join the opposition, because he belongs to their side of the barricades. Given that the former Supreme Soviet speaker's popularity in Chechnya is steadily on the rise, if he returns to politics and heads the opposition to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the people will "unequivocally rally around him" so as to start building a new life under his leadership.

Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], is also inclined to think that economic talks may become the main means to straighten out relations between Moscow and Groznyy. In his view, this is possible because the talks with Chechnya will be held by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, not Sergey Shakhray. A dialogue with Dzhokhar Dudayev, the FCS director believes, should be held "in a tough manner," with normalization at railways passing through Chechen territory to be a priority matter. However, Mr. Stepashin said in Nalchik at a meeting with parliamentarians and government members of Kabardino-Balkaria, Boris Yeltsin may meet with Dzhokhar Dudayev only if the Chechen president recognizes that his republic is part of the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, not only is Chechnya reluctant to identify itself as a member of the Russian commonwealth, but it is entering the international scene as an independent state. The Chechen Foreign Ministry has stated that it will suspend any ties with Britain until "legality and the rule of law prevail in that country" and will not participate in the CITEX-94 international exhibition. So uncompromising a decision has been prompted by Britain's attempt "to taint the honor and dignity of the Chechen people by accusing them of a vendetta," after it charged relatives of the Utsiyev brothers of murdering Karen Reed in London. According to a Scotland Yard theory, the Utsiyevs arrived in Britain to buy guided missiles so as subsequently to resell them to the Azerbaijani side, and were killed by Armenian terrorists. Having accused foreign secret services of attempts to slander Chechnya, the republic's Foreign Ministry stated: "The secret services appear to have an insufficient knowledge of customs and traditions of the Chechens, for whom the murder of a woman, a child, or an elderly person amounts to a national disgrace."

Situation Normalizing in Derbent Following Ethnic Clashes

LD0705195994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1955 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhi Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala 7 May TASS—The situation in Derbent is normalizing thanks to negotiations of leaders of national Lezghian and Azeri movements who agreed to hold no more rallies and settle all problems through a dialogue. Their joint appeal urged residents of Derbent and Dagestan to show restraint, wisdom and not yield to nationalist provocations.

Lezghian and Azeri rallies were held in Derbent this week under nationalist slogans. The rallies were accompanied by local clashes and fire exchanges. No casualties were reported. The police were sent to resume order.

A reason for the rallies was a quarrel between several Lezghians and Azeris that resulted in a fight and a fire exchange, when two Lezghians were killed and several people, including those underaged, wounded. After that a hundred of Lezghians blocked the way to the town.

A meeting of the Dagestan parliament presidium discussed the situation in Derbent and sharply criticized the Derbent authorities and the police. New heads of the city administration and city interior department were nominated. A special government commission is working.

New Border Regime To Be Introduced in Kabardino-Balkariya

LD0705151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik 7 May TASS—Local residents and tourists will be admitted to the Kabardino-Balkarian border zone only on special passes since 1 June 1994.

The border zone is a five-kilometer-wide strip between the Georgian border and Kabardino-Balkariya to include the settlements of Elbrus, Verkhny Chekem, Bezengi and Verkhnyaya Balkaria, as well as numerous tourist camps.

A resolution to the effect was adopted by the Kabardino-Balkarian government in accordance with the Russian law on state border. It will be implemented by the Nalchik border unit.

Khabarovsk Kray Rebuffs China's Territorial Claims

MK0705084094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed ADS report in the "Incident" column: "Illegal Border Crossing by Chinese Warships Has Been Prevented. Khabarovsk Residents Are Not Going To Cede the Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy Island to the Chinese"]

[Text] Border guards of the Far Eastern Border District have prevented a penetration by five Chinese military vessels. As Khabarovsk Kray administration chief Viktor Ishayev told SEGODNYA's correspondent, on the afternoon of 1 May Chinese vessels, in line formation, were moving in to breach the Russian-Chinese border in the area of the Kazakevich outpost, 40 km from Khabarovsk.

Mr. Ishayev demanded that the border district command use all legitimate means to curb this attempt. As a result of decisive actions by patrol boats and vessels of the Amur flotilla, the Chinese military vessels were not allowed across the border. No casualties, fighting, or damage are reported. Viktor Ishayev said that "these actions by the Chinese side are a provocation aimed at infringing the Russian Far East." He related these actions directly to the upcoming visit to the PRC by Russian Federation Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin scheduled for the end of this May.

Mr. Ishayev expressed the supposition that the actions by Chinese military vessels came as a result of a still unrenounced agreement, little known to the wide public, which was signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on 14 May 1991. Article 8 of this agreement says, "Chinese vessels of all types, including military, may navigate the Amur freely. The rules of navigation will be elaborated by the competent bodies of the two countries additionally." Because the rules of navigation have not as yet been worked out, military vessels as well as civilian steamships from China will not be allowed into Khabarovsk at the Kazakevich checkpoint.

Touching on the evolution of Russian-Chinese relations at the local level, the head of the kray administration believes that "at present China is undertaking latent expansion to the Russian Far East, infringing and humiliating the Russian people." If the treaty signed by the former USSR leaders "is not renounced, the administrations of adjacent Far Eastern krays and oblasts will take their own measures," he said. According to Mr. Ishayev, "the provocation by the military vessels was also a demonstration, timed to coincide with the start of work by a joint Russian-Chinese demarcation commission on 6 May."

As is known, in the process of border revision between Russia and the PRC the latter has acquired more than 2,000 islands with more than 1,000 hectares of arable land. The stumbling block in the commission's work is the Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy island with an area of 350 sq km, located close to Khabarovsk. On its maps published in China the southern neighbor stubbornly marks this fertile island as Chinese territory and has an eye to seizing it from Russia. According to Viktor Ishayev, however, "the residents of Khabarovsk Kray intend to maintain their island by any methods."

Regions Warned Gas Supplies Will Be Cut Because of Debts

PM0605151794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Untitled report from ITAR-TASS/INTERFAX "News in Brief" roundup]

[Text] The "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company has warned the leaders of a number of Russian Federation Republics and oblasts that deliveries of natural gas for power industry facilities and industrial enterprises may be cut in the light of their indebtedness to "Gazprom." Warnings that gas deliveries will cease for various regions 4 through 9 May have been sent to Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Bashkiria, and Dagestan, as well as Perm, Novosibirsk, Astrakhan, Kemerovo, Rostov, and Voronezh Oblasts, and Stavropol Kray.

Radiation Sources Reported Missing From Laboratory

MK0705103594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed INTERFAX report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Nakhodka—A few days ago eight radiation sources from ship dosimeters containing highly active strontium-90, yttrium-90, and plutonium-239 radionuclides were stolen from the city's sea fishing port laboratory. This was announced yesterday by the Russian State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, citing its Far East branch. The sea port administration notified the Nakhodka investigating authorities about the incident. At present an inquiry is under way.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on Current Issues

LD0705085494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1810 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko on interview with Ukraine President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk by various unidentified correspondents in Kiev on 6 May; Kravchuk remarks recorded]

[Excerpts] The president of Ukraine was asked many questions, touching on various aspects of the political, cultural, and social situation in Ukraine, our state's mutual relations with Russia, the world and European communities, the processes of nuclear disarmament in Ukraine, and so on. Next week, Leonid Makarovych was asked, Ukraine's new parliament will begin work, and you are intending to make an initiative to postpone the June preterm presidential elections. Has this initiative already been fully prepared, or will it require some explanations of your standpoint? This is the Ukrainian president's reply:

[Kravchuk] Not only how we will elect a president, but also what people, and with what powers, and what power we will form. This is a fundamental position. They say we have the law on the president [words indistinct], and that the president's status is determined. I am not saying that [word indistinct]. But in this case, all structures, all the way down to village council, should be compatible with each other.

For example, if there is the president in Kiev with his present powers, that is, he is the head of the state and the executive power, while oblasts will have parliamentary structures—which is actually the case, because according to the adopted law on formation of the power, it is purely a parliamentary structure—then we have the president in Kiev, but without leverage and structures in the provinces. Therefore, one should change either the adopted laws or the law on the president. That is, the draft constitution says that the president is the head of state with certain powers, so we should coordinate these two laws: the law on the president and the law on forming self-governing and [word indistinct] power structures.

There are no ambitions here. One just has to do it. If one doesn't, then the executive structures will be ruined after the elections. No vertical chain of command is envisioned. The adopted law does not so much as mention the president, if you read it carefully. At some point, it only says that state functions will be delegated to local government institutions, and that in this respect they will be answerable to the Cabinet of Ministers, but not to the president.

In other words, when this law was examined by the Supreme Council, there was a revolutionary hatred for the president, and one could already feel that the president is not necessary as such and that his powers should be reduced, if any remain, to those of a representative figure. At present, however, things are different. So, this is why I say: let us bring everything down to a logical structure, changing either this or that. Then one could go to the elections.

As for my position, why exactly I decided to run in the presidential elections. First, it is everyone's right to make such a decision, and it is not prohibited either by the constitution or by the law. Second, I began to be accused of supposedly opposing elections because I was said to be afraid of elections, and this idea has now gone spread through the country. Thus, in the present case I am going to speak in favor of canceling the elections (?at the level of) [words indistinct], who has decided to run as candidate for president.

These are the main points, but there are also other ones. I just want us to make a responsible decision based on democratic principles. Why am I turning to the Supreme Council? But who else if not the newly elected Supreme Council can today resolve those issues? Can the new Supreme Council avoid reforming the power, the political reform in Ukraine? It cannot. This is its obligation, responsibility, and right. It is normal when the newly elected parliament initiates a relevant action based [word indistinct] on the law, order, and constitution.

[Naumenko] The president of Ukraine was asked to explain the situation connected to the forthcoming visit to Kiev by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—this was agreed by Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin in Moscow during the last meeting of CIS heads of state and heads of government—and also the statement by Crimea's President Meshkov that the Black Sea Fleet supposedly comes under the exclusive authority of Russia and Crimea's government.

[Kravchuk] I consider that our relations with Russia, with Russia's president, and with the Russia Government, are constructive. As to the fact that there was a (?corresponding) statement, it was interpreted slightly incorrectly. Boris Nikolayevich did not refuse to visit; he said only that he will pay the visit when the acute problems have been resolved.

Then there is the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. I think (?he did the right thing). When there is much that has not been resolved, it is somewhat illogical to sign, for example, a treaty on friendship, partnership, and cooperation when there are acute problems. Well, I support the Russian president's view that a treaty can be signed only when all the issues have been resolved.

Anything said by other persons, including Crimea's president, is merely a personal position, his personal viewpoint. This personal viewpoint cannot be the fundamental one in relations between Russia and Ukraine today. I have always stressed, and I stress now, that I would very much like (?Crimea), its president, and the [word indistinct] officials to understand that relations between two states, two peoples, [words indistinct]. Whoever wants this relationship to be one of [word

indistinct] and partnership should make efforts to bring this about, and anyone doing this will be a source of pride and a person of great significance for his people, but not [word indistinct] if he makes matters more acute and creates confrontations.

[Naumenko] Do you consider, Leonid Kravchuk was asked, that the previous years of your presidency were years of constructive cooperation with the previous Ukrainian parliament, or was it time wasted in fruitless arguments and in the inefficient opposition of legislative and executive structures. Here is the head of state's reply:

[Kravchuk] I have said already and have no other point of view on this, that if we had managed from the very beginning, from the very first steps, to reach accord—it cannot be a consensus, this is ruled out—but accord and constructive work in parliament, constructive work between the parliament and the government, between the president and parliament, I am convinced that we would have done far more, far more, in the area of legislation, in the area of executive discipline, in the area of reforms, market reforms, and in setting up democratic power institutions. We would have done much more. But this did not happen.

All the time and in most cases [word indistinct], our relations were (?based) on mutual accusations. The executive structures blamed the legislative structures, sometimes simply undeservedly, and the legislative structures blamed the executive structures. This then became a kind of norm. Meetings began, sittings began, but everything proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual accusations. This did not bring any benefit.

I hope, I want to believe, that this parliament (?will take) its first steps toward constructive work. There can be no unity there, because there are different people with various views. But what is fundamental is to attempt and see the necessity for constructive [word indistinct] with the government, the president, and with all other power structures. This is the main thing needed to achieve progress in solving economic and to social problems, and foreign economic problems [words indistinct].

[Naumenko] As is well known, the left-wing forces won a considerable number of deputies' seats at the elections. What is Leonid Kravchuk's attitude to the communist idea in general, the president was asked, has it changed at all?

[Kravchuk] The Communist Party, the communists, and the communist idea are different things. I have never been a resolute opponent of, let us say, the right, (?if one may put this question), the right of the individual to believe in one or another idea, be it in communism or capitalism. This is everyone's right.

There is the organization of the Communist Party itself. This is now a structure. There are (?all sorts of) structures, which arm themselves with an idea and want to put it into practice. No one can prevent anyone doing this in a constitutional way and within the laws of the state. As you have probably observed, when I (?left the party) in (?1991), I never [words indistinct], did not say that the communist ideology is an (?enemy ideology), that the Communist Party is a criminal organization. I have not said this. [passage indistinct]

As far as individuals are concerned, some individuals of the current Communist Party are (?a worry), because they are of the red mayor type, that is they want revenge at any cost. If (?for example), you did not defend the Communist Party, then you are a traitor. If you left the Communist Party, you are a traitor. [Words indistinct] because the party envisages the right to join the party and to leave the party, and no one has the right to apply pressure. If this is democratic [words indistinct].

This is my attitude. I have an appropriate attitude to individuals, and I consider this a [word indistinct] standpoint. If one is to take this position, then the prospects [words indistinct]. (?He knows) that if he wants to leave he will be insulted, revenge will be taken, pressure will be applied, he will be called a traitor and then even persecuted [words indistinct]. Who will join such a party?

We simply cannot generalize about this, but should look at specific things. This is my position. I cannot speak against any organization which acts within the framework and the boundaries of the constitution and the law. If an organization does not obey the constitution and the law, there is the procurator's office to deal with it, there is the Justice Ministry, and there are other legislative, legal, and law enforcement bodies to handle matters within the framework of the law and the constitution. [passage omitted]

[Naumenko] On the eve of possible presidential elections, the relationship between Leonid Kravchuk and [former Parliament Speaker] Ivan Plyushch is a matter of great interest among people. What can the head of state say about this? This was the next question to Leonid Kravchuk. The Ukraine president was also asked to comment on the fact that for some reason our Ukrainian listeners, the Ukrainian audience and population receive most new information on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament from the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

[Kravchuk] Ivan Stepanovych [Plyushch] has said that he will declare his candidacy and I told him that everyone has the right to run president. Ivan Stepanovych and I were together for four years in all. We sat at the table together for one and a half years, I as chairman and he as first deputy. In the last few years he was chairman [words indistinct], and naturally there were contacts between the chairman and the president. I know that Ivan Stepanovych has his standpoints, his point of view. This is normal. In my speeches I have never made any kind of personal observations regarding the Supreme Council chairman, regarding Ivan Stepanovych—not once; nowhere; never—because I believe that debates should be direct. [Word indistinct] debates do not bring any benefit. If there is no (?reply)

when people sit opposite each other and have the possibility [words indistinct] to exchange points of view, this is normal. One has his point of view, the other has another point of view. [passage indistinct]

I would say that the [trilateral nuclear] agreement is being implemented, that none of the three sides has any [words indistinct] to cast doubt on the agreement, which (?has been signed). Let us say that Ukraine is fulfilling its obligations, Russia is fulfilling its obligations, and the United States its fulfilling its obligations. Whether their dates coincide, whether their volumes coincide, sums of money, warheads, fuel elements, dates, and times is another matter. There are corresponding problems here. There are both objective and subjective problems. But they (?are being resolved).

As far as deactivation is concerned, we are acting in accordance with the agreement. The agreement does not envisage complete deactivation; [words indistinct] gradual (?deactivation) is envisaged for the present. But we are fulfilling those obligations we have assumed, and will continue to fulfill them in the interests of (?this) trilateral agreement. This deactivation does not mean the withdrawal of warheads, you understand; it means their stockpiling [skladuvannya], if one can use this word, at S facilities. We are interested in these warheads being stockpiled. We are also interested, because, not having a direct and full control over silos, over nuclear warheads—I do not have full control, I do not have technical control, because this technical control is located directly in Moscow—I am interested in their not being on alert status [na boyevomu cherhuvanni] because this is more peaceful both for Ukraine and for the United States, especially as they are all aimed [word indistinct] at the United States of America. That is, I am in favor of deactivating them, deactivating them.

As for what the state of play is today, on today's date, [words indistinct], I do not know exactly whether [word indistinct] 46, 36, or 26. The point is not [word indistinct]. The point is that we are fulfilling our (?contractual) obligations.

[Naumenko] One of the questions to the Ukrainian president contained a request to comment in detail on a package of US assistance to Ukraine, dealt with during the Ukrainian head of state's March visit to Washington. Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk explained in this connection, as follows:

[Kravchuk] It can be said that this has been discussed—our problems and mechanisms for implementing the documents we signed in Washington, as well as Bill Clinton's letter—during yesterday's meeting with the delegation headed by Burns. The point of the letter is that we should begin to act in three primary directions. The first direction is to use the $350 million designated for economic assistance—not the $350 million for the dismantlement of nuclear weapons—the $350 million for economic assistance. This is the first direction. The second one is the development of investment programs—where could these funds be used directly. The third direction is the development of trade between Ukraine and the United States.

Bill Clinton believes that this delegation should work in Ukraine in these three directions. During the meeting, we conceptually worked out our proposals, and, before the meeting with me, the delegation had had appropriate negotiations and consultations with governmental structures, including the Foreign Ministry. Thus, the point is how to use the $350 million, beginning immediately, without further delay.

There was another proposal. You will recall, when the U.S. President was here, he said that the United States would grant this loan to support small business. Now, this figure has been put at $150 million. Then, the talk was about $50 million, now the amount has increased to $150 million. However, I want you, all of us and all those who are listening to us, to understand one thing. There is state assistance, state loans granted by other countries to Ukraine. These loans are granted under guarantees. They must be returned, and of course, the interest must be paid. The level, or the specific gravity of these forms of assistance is dozens, or even hundreds times lower than private companies' investments.

For instance, Hungary recently received assistance from other states amounting to five [words indistinct] well about (?$150 million), while private investments have up to date come to $3.5 billion.

Every year, the United States invests more than $50 billion abroad. However, who does it? General Motors, General Electric, Johnson and Johnson, Pepsi Cola, and others do it, meaning companies which have colossal capabilities. These investments are of a different nature. They come to a country, set up enterprises and joint ventures, with the state in such cases not undertaking any immediate guarantees. That is up to a joint venture. It is either viable and competitive, trading, selling and earning money, or its competitors and [word indistinct] (?displace it).

I want you to understand that this is not the most important thing. The most important thing is to create in Ukraine conditions for investments of private capital.

[Naumenko] (?On the subject of) plummeting production and inflation processes which, it is true, have lately been successfully placed under strict state control, the Ukrainian president was asked about his vision of economic development in Ukraine (?in the very near future).

[Kravchuk] [passage indistinct] Comparing statistics, it is even greater, rather than less severe, in other CIS countries. However, I would like to say one thing which is very important. For instance, Ukraine was the first CIS state to have suffered a blow of the energy crisis, (?which called into question our very independence). You may remember how quickly prices, inflation etc.

rose. Today, we (?have reached), let us say, [word indistinct]. It is simply impossible for energy and other prices to rise any higher because nobody will any longer buy the goods that are manufactured. If it is twice (?the price) [words indistinct], it is simply impossible.

We have withstood that (?pressure). (?It is over now). We have withstood it. Now at rock bottom, as they say, we can and have begun gradually to advance. What does advancing mean? This means, and you can see for yourselves, that inflation has now fallen. Production in some areas is still falling, but there are increases too. New sectors are appearing.

Last year, for example, 22 percent of industrial output was produced by lease enterprises. We now have up to 4,000 large enterprises that are subject to corporatization, i.e. setting up (?public limited [vidkrytyy]) companies. As many as 2,000 or so medium- and large-size enterprises have been privatized. In other words, there has appeared (?a demand) for the establishment of new economic forms and new forms of relationships, which enables me to speak of our ability to contain the situation and advance toward the unification of [words indistinct]. We should advance, and we have the opportunity to do so in the (?present) situation. I understand that it will be not easy, difficult [words indistinct].

[Naumenko] Because Ukraine will shortly have a newly formed government, the Ukrainian president was asked to dwell in greater detail on possible key personnel changes and replacements in the make-up of the government.

[Kravchuk] You see, choosing people now and [words indistinct] cannot be a purely personal matter of the president. I believe that when we begin nominating a prime minister, I think it will happen before the presidential elections—a newly elected legislature has to nominate a prime minister—I will hold the widest-possible consultations with the various factions, the deputies' groups, and I will not only hold consultations but I will have to know the distribution of forces; that a particular candidate will be accepted and voted for because, to put it simply, I can nominate just anybody. However, where are the guarantees that this person will be accepted?

Therefore, after the consultations, after such far-reaching discussions, I believe this could be done with respect to any name. Currently, we have no big claims, let us say, to such candidates as, well, just to anyone who is [word indistinct] submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Council and receives the Supreme Council's approval. However, I must know the opinion of the deputies' corps and the factions'—socialist, communist, or democratic—standing on the issue. All this should be agreed upon.

By the way, there are no specific paths for Ukraine. In all countries of the world, before a candidate is nominated for a post, the nomination should be discussed and agreed upon. When the voting is held, I am sure that this candidate will receive an acceptable number of votes. The other thing is that I will convince the deputies, the factions, and groups that this candidate is the most proper person for this reason or that. I will convince them, but not simply by saying that I want just this man and nobody else, and if you do not agree, I will not nominate anyone else. This cannot be done.

I did not have the opportunity to discuss with the deputies the question of a candidate for prime minister. I want to invite on 10 May, firstly, the group of deputies who proposed moving the date of elections, and also those who want to come to me on 10 May and hold an open discussion. I will elaborate on my position, why I think such and such, and they can speak out on their positions, and ask me questions. Well, they could raise the issue of the prime minister; perhaps this question will be raised.

Therefore, we should not make a secret out of this. If we go openly to the Supreme Council, this cannot be a secret: These are not—how should I put it—palace tricks, this is a serious position which should be (?occupied by a person who is capable of holding this position). This is not simple. This person should be ready [words indistinct]. What I am saying now is that this will be done on the basis of urgent consultations with all factions, leaders, and groups. After this, a joint decision will be adopted.

[Naumenko] The problem of housing in Ukraine's armed forces is certainly one of the most acute problems of our society. [Words indistinct] my journalist colleague thinks, reducing officers personnel.

[Kravchuk] We need our armed forces to ensure the protection of the state. This corresponds with, let us say, our (?concept) and doctrine approved by the Supreme Council. [passage indistinct]

As for social security, we have a program to provide officers [words indistinct] the armed forces, and also a program to retrain them. [passage indistinct]

That was the leading topic in the United States of America: Of the money we are being allocated to eliminate nuclear weapons, the main proportion today has to be used to provide officers with (?proper housing). [passage indistinct] There are many opportunities for construction. There are building contractors who can now do this immediately [words indistinct]. So I cannot say that everything is ideal there, but the program [words indistinct].

[Naumenko] In the range of economic issues, the condition of government settlements with the agrarian sector of the economy is of key importance. The following is the Ukrainian president's answer:

[Kravchuk] [passage indistinct] So, we are capitalizing on every opportunity to solve as fully as possible the

problem of settling debts to the countryside, of supporting the miners, (?and of) subsidies we have allocated. [passage indistinct]

We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Ukraine and next year the 50th anniversary of the victory. I would like to say—(?I have already said)—that Ukraine will fully participate in all actions within the framework of the CIS. I now have an appeal by (Ivan Oleksandrovych Herasymov's) organization of veterans to determine our position with regard to decorations and medals, and this we are working on. So, it is about support both material and moral, because the people who were in the war at that time deserve that attitude toward them. By the way, the last shots fired in Ukraine—I mean in combat operations—were heard in 1944; fortunately none have been fired since then.

[Words indistinct] we have not yet fully realized what it means that whole generations—let us say, (?several generations)—have not seen and do not know what war is [words indistinct]. This is our great victory—that we maintain peace and calm in Ukraine. (?Credit) here, you know, must in honesty be given to the veterans. [Words indistinct] and know what those people lived through and how much they suffered and how many wounds they bear today. [passage indistinct] This will enable them to speak out and tell us about their hard life and about what they lived through, so we can make everybody respect them. This, you know, is the culture of our society and its future. [passage indistinct].

Kravchuk, Official on Economic Cooperation With U.S.

LD0505185094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 86 (576)]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk hopes that the Supreme Soviet of a new convocation will ratify the agreements on economic cooperation between the United States and Ukraine signed this January during Kravchuk's visit to the United States. Kravchuk declared about this during his meeting with the head of the U.S. economic delegation Nicholas Burns in Kiev. The delegation of the American experts came to Ukraine to get acquainted with the economic situation in the republic and to determine possibilities to use economic aid to Ukraine totaling 350 million dollars.

After this meeting Kravchuk reported to journalists that the United States intends to render assistance to Ukraine in order to re-struct [as received] its economy and to develop cooperation with the republic in the field of trade and investments.

In Burns' words, a Ukrainian-American fund in support of entrepreneurs in Ukraine will be created this summer. It will grant credits and loans to Ukrainian private entrepreneurs.

Our Interfax correspondent reports from Kiev that at the negotiations with the members of the American economic delegation underway in Kiev the Ukrainian party proposed to use part of the allocated credit as a pledge to receive credit from one of the large foreign banks. According to Ukraine's Economics Minister Roman Shpek, Kiev is not ready "to use 350 million dollars in the near future."

Leadership of the Ukrainian cabinet was critical of Washington's position which presented too many provisions in order to grant concrete economic assistance. In particular, as Vice Premier Valentin Landik said, in accordance with the proposals of the American party 95 million dollars in support of private undertaking would be allocated only after refusal from rent as a means of denationalization of property.

In the opinion of the American experts, rent can hinder "voucher privatization" which they view as the most efficient method to reform the property.

Landik called members of the American delegation to decline the above mentioned provisions and private calls "to start reforms."

In Landik's words, diminishing of the inflation to 5.7 percent and beginning of privatization testify to the fact that reforms in Ukraine have been started and they need concrete support.

At the negotiations the American party also persisted in introduction of a market exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets with respect to hard currency. For his part, Landik declared that "the state will preserve regulation of the karbovanets rate in the course of the crisis' surmounting."

In his interview with Interfax on Thursday Landik declared that the resolution of the Ukrainian government On Urgent Measures to Surmount the Payment Crisis issued on Wednesday called to grant an opportunity to enterprises "to unfold their wings" and to go out of the non-payments' crisis peculiar to all former Soviet states.

According to Landik, lowering of tariffs for the value added tax (to 20 percent) and replacement of income tax for profit (since January 1, 1995) should assist in improving financial situation of the Ukrainian enterprises.

As Landik noted, introduction of increased rates for customs tariffs for import of alcoholic beverages and tobacco goods is primarily intended to protect a Ukrainian producer. At the same time he pointed out that this measure does not concern import from CIS countries, including Russia. "From now on import tariffs will be revised every week, this will help to quickly react to the market's economic conditions," Landik reported.

Commenting the situation on the introduction of state monopoly for production and trade with alcoholic beverages, Landik said that Ukraine's Cabinet of Minister

had examined Russia's experience but it would predominantly use Austria's experience.

Japan Offers $16 million for Nuclear Disarmament

LD0605134194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A UNIAN correspondent was informed by the Japanese Embassy in Ukraine that out of the $100 million allocated by the Japanese Government to dismantling the nuclear weapons of Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, our country will receive $16 million, with Japan expecting specific projects [to be implemented] by Ukraine using this money.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry says that both countries are in the process of drafting a joint declaration on the principles of cooperation between Ukraine and Japan, a memorandum of understanding between the two states' foreign political departments, and an intergovernmental agreement on the mutual encouragement and protection of investments, as well as working to settle the issue of Ukraine's legal succession with regard to the contractual and legal basis that was formed in relations between Japan and the former USSR.

Chief of General Staff on Ties With NATO, Russia

MK0605110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the Ukraine General Staff, by Vladimir Katin, RIA's own correspondent at NATO, specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in the "Exclusive" column: "Anatoliy Lopata: 'I Have No Doubts That Russia Will Also Join the Partnership for Peace Program'"—in Brussels; date not given]

[Text] Last week in Evers, a suburb of the Belgian capital, a session of the NATO Military Committee was held, attended by military leaders of some CIS countries. RIA's correspondent met and had a talk with Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the Ukraine Armed Forces General Staff.

[Katin] Mr. General, as far as I know, this is the third time that you have participated in such sessions. Ukraine is not an outside observer in this military organization; it already has one foot in NATO: I mean the joining of the Partnership for Peace program. As a result, Russia has found itself in a situation in which, via Ukraine, NATO directly pushes against its lengthy Western ground and also sea borders. Presumably Kiev's policy is more oriented toward the West than toward its traditional ally? The impression is that Russia's interests are being ignored.

[Lopata] I do not like the statement that Ukraine has one foot in NATO. Ukraine simply supports the Partnership for Peace program. Actually this means support of peace and stability in Europe. Tell me, is this bad? I consider this a universal task. Now you say that through Ukraine's participation in the Partnership program, NATO is approaching Russia's borders. I personally have no doubt that Russia will also join the Partnership. Yet, this does not at all mean that NATO has opened all the doors for us. The meaning of the Partnership is, by joint, coalition-based actions, to facilitate the preservation of peace in Europe, prevent an outbreak of war, put an end to internecine fighting, and stop bloodshed wherever it occurs. Russia cannot exclude itself from participation in addressing these tasks and therefore it cannot but accept the Partnership program. I have no doubts on this count. After all, Russia is already doing very much to stabilize the situation in various regions of the world.

[Katin] At what stage of cooperation with NATO is Ukraine at present and what is being done in practical terms?

[Lopata] We have signed what is basically a framework agreement with NATO. Now the possibility is being considered of allocating forces and funds as our contribution toward implementing some joint tasks with NATO. I do not think that at the moment these will be large or complex tasks. After all, such participation also has an economic aspect—expenses. But even now we can prepare and send our military units for participation in joint actions with NATO. This, however, cannot be more than one battalion with reinforcements.

[Katin] If I understand you correctly, this year Ukraine is ready to enter the phase, as you say, of implementing practical tasks in interaction with NATO units; is that right?

[Lopata] Absolutely. This can begin in the current year. You know that two of our battalions are now operating in former Yugoslavia. We put them at the UN Security Council's disposal. To be sure, Partnership is quite another program, but so far we have the right to send a mere 1,220 military personnel: soldiers, officers, and observers. Such is the will of our parliament. This is the size of the contingent allowed to be kept outside the country. It seems that a new parliament, which will start working in the very near future, will adopt more definitive legislation on this score.

[Katin] Let us return to the "Partnership for Peace" program. You think that Russia will finally accept this program, join it. But you must be aware that in Russia this approach has been formulated as follows: We may join it, but not on the terms on which, say, Albania or Estonia did it. What is your view on such an approach?

[Lopata] This is a very wrong approach. If we are to be partners—I underline in boldface—partners, then relations within the program should also be partner-like, that is, honest and equal with regard to rights and obligations. We have not yet talked about how many troops or how much money one member or another should provide.

What we are talking about is that everyone may participate with as many resources as he has at his disposal in fulfilling joint missions to keep peace and stability in one region or another... But to demand that a special status be given means to place oneself above your partners. In this case there will be no partnership. I repeat: partnership is equality of all members.

[Katin] How do your assess the current state of Russian-Ukrainian military relations?

[Lopata] Our relations with Russia are currently undergoing a difficult period. The reason for this instability is uncertainty regarding the Black Sea Fleet problem. The Black Sea Fleet is a stumbling block that precludes us from reaching understanding. What is the reason here? The problem is not how to split the fleet. Precisely this problem can be resolved fairly easily. Everyone understands that—both the Russian side and the Ukrainian side. The main problem is the Black Sea Fleet infrastructure, its basing on Ukrainian territory. It is here that we encounter many complex nuances that should be resolved both at the political level and at the level of defense ministers. We should make it clear where Ukraine's fleet will be based and where Russia's will be. If a corresponding political decision is made, we should determine what, how, and on what terms should be given to Russia from this infrastructure, say, with regard to bases... By raising the question like this we, in turn, create the need to resolve the problem of mutual payments. I hope you understand me. This is why these should be very well balanced, respectful relations. One should not forget that relations between Ukraine and Russia, relations between our two peoples, largely shape the overall situation in Europe. This is why I would like our problem to be resolved in the worthiest and gentlest manner possible. I am completely certain that we will be able to untangle these knots. Without fail! This is just a matter of time and... personalities who are dealing directly with the entire range of matters. The role of personalities has its own significance. I would like experienced specialists to deal with that, so that people will look somewhat farther than the present day, so that they will see the prospects for the evolution of our peoples. We should be attuned only to benevolent prospects, for they are for the whole life. The way current problems are being settled will determine our future, the future of our children and grandchildren, their relations. This is why we should act competently and respectfully with regard to each other.

Kiev Wants Cooperation With EU Without Nuclear Treaty

LD0605163194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Certain European countries condition Ukraine's signing of the Treaty on Partnership and Cooperation with the European Union with ratification of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by the Ukrainian parliament. This was said by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko at a press conference in Kiev today.

Zlenko said he had heard this "disturbing note" during his talks with Deputy Chairman of the EU [European Union] Commission, the European Commissions Commissioner for Foreign Economy Leon Britten which had finished in Kiev today.

"We do not yet know the names of these states, however such an approach is unacceptable for us," Zlenko emphasized. He stressed that Ukraine was carrying out the trilateral statement on nuclear disarmament made by the U.S., Russian and Ukrainian presidents. He added that the Ukrainian leadership was doing everything possible in order to join the treaty on non-proliferation.

Zlenko suggested that the conditioning of the treaty on cooperation with that on non-proliferation could create a "dangerous precedent." He said this could be in the interests of forces trying to put Ukraine in a difficult situation from the point of view of international public opinion.

Britten stated that the EU leaders had never sought to establish an inter-dependence between the two documents and urged the countries which had put forward such a condition to disassociate themselves from it. However, Britten called on the Ukrainian leadership to speed up ratification of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Britten said that the EU would consider possible assistance to Ukraine with construction of two energy blocks on two nuclear power stations, which would help Ukraine with energy supply and put the Chernobyl nuclear power station out of utilization.

Britten told INTERFAX-Ukraine that the amount of aid had not as yet been defined and would depend on what aid the world community would be able to give to Ukraine. He added that the issue on the Chernobyl nuclear power station would be discussed at the G-7 meeting this summer.

Britten also announced that a Treaty on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and Russia had been worked out. It would be submitted to the EU leading bodies in the near future.

Zlenko Holds News Conference With EU's Brittan

LD0705194594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] As a full-fledged European state, Ukraine should play a considerable role in the European economic and political space. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said this at a joint news conference with

Leon Brittan, deputy chairman of the European Union commission and commissioner for external economic affairs.

Zlenko emphasized that the legal and treaty basis for cooperation should be the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union, which opens up the prospect for associate membership in this structure. The minister expressed the hope that the agreement would be signed by the head of the Ukrainian state. Zlenko also said that the direction of cooperation with the European Union in the areas of agriculture, nuclear safety, energy provision, and macroeconomics had been discussed and that an exchange of opinions on issues of European security and other international problems had taken place during the course of Brittan's stay in Ukraine.

EU Asked To Ease Export Restrictions

LD0605123394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian leaders and the deputy chairman of the European Union's Commission Leon Brittan agreed that very soon Ukraine would appeal to the Commission for a 200 Mn [million] ECU food loan. Along with this, Ukraine would be allowed to export farm produce to the European marketplace. It would use part of the profits to purchase pesticides.

Brittan met with the Ukrainian leaders on 5 May. The Ukrainian Government requested him to drop Ukraine from the C List of nations with government-controled economies. The European Union placed restrictions on imports from the countries of the C List.

According to Brittan, the European Union would be willing to help Ukraine in the field of power production and encourage free enterprise in that republic. But, he said, Ukraine would be taken off the C List only if it made progress on the road for economic liberalization and, more specifically, privatization. More reform in Ukraine would enable the European Union to speed up moves to lift the anti-dumping restrictions.

Brittan wanted to know when Ukraine was going to pay off the European Union's 4.5 Mn ECU loan. Ukrainian Finance Minister Grigoriy Piatachenko said Kiev would square its debt with the European Union by mid-May or before the European Union's Commission sat down to decide whether to render more aid to Ukraine.

CSCE Minorities Commissioner Holds News Conference

LD0705173094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 7 May—"If there is good will and moderation in actions, then any problems can be resolved," Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for minorities, stressed at a news conference. Having familiarized himself with the state of interethnic relations in Ukraine, his mission there is to get an opportunity to make certain recommendations to the government in order to prevent the emergence of conflict situations. Mr. van der Stoel visited Crimea and Donetsk Oblasts. He intends to pass his recommendations to the Ukrainian Government in the near future.

Although there are certain problems in the regions, I did not notice any symptoms of interethnic hostility, the high commissioner noted. He also noted the liberality of Ukrainian legislation in issues of ethnic minorities. As far as the situation in Crimea is concerned, I did not notice any cases of forced Ukrainianization in the autonomy. On the contrary, one could describe some of the Crimeans' views as separatist ones, van der Stoel noted, and emphasized that the international community is in favor of Ukraine's territorial integrity. The CSCE high commissioner noted that consultations between the leaders of the state and the regions would be of great benefit to both sides and stressed the necessity of avoiding any provocative actions, which could lead to the situation becoming more complicated.

France's Lamassoure Calls For Closure of Chernobyl

AU0605202394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 May 94 p 6

[Interview with French Minister for European Affairs Alain Lamassoure by HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent Volodymyr Savtsov, in Kiev; date not given: "In Mutual Interests"]

[Text] [Savtsov] How do you assess the state of Franco-Ukrainian relations?

[Lamassoure] Our relations with Ukraine, which were established from the very start of Ukrainian independence, are developing at a satisfactory level. My visit is a concrete manifestation of the interest in your country, an interest that has never faded in France.

We know that Ukraine is going through an uncommon period when the population experiences great difficulties. We realize that the road toward a market economy cannot be covered overnight. The transitional period is always quite long and difficult. However, as follows from experience, the longer important decisions are delayed, the longer and more difficult the road will be. We, therefore, hope that Ukraine develops, as soon as possible, its own economic program, which will enable it to receive international assistance.

[Savtsov] What specific trends are there in our cooperation?

[Lamassoure] France is an active participant in the G-7 highly developed Western countries striving to improve nuclear safety in the CIS countries, and in particular in Ukraine. French public opinion is attentively following the danger to which the entire European continent and, first and foremost Ukraine, may be exposed by the

continued operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Recent incidents have added to our concern. For this particular reason, the French authorities believe that it is necessary to reach an urgent decision, so that all reactors at Chernobyl can be closed down as soon as possible. G-7 has already looked into this issue during the summit in Munich in 1992, when a special fund was created for the purpose. Concern was also voiced at the 1993 summit in Tokyo. On our initiative, this issue will be among the principal ones on the agenda at the summit in Naples this coming July. However, the efficiency of the G-7's actions also depends upon the level of cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities. I want to assure you that, in any case, France will take an active part in the quest for a decision and in the work that will be conducted. Our methods of expert analysis and our know-how have been recognized by the entire international community. We will grant this know-how to Ukraine.

There are many other spheres in which we can cooperate. The determination of policy in the area of power engineering, in particular, in energy conservation, may become a area for useful cooperation, because France has much experience in this field. I might also remind you about the assistance in the establishment of a law-governed state and of all the related institutions. We are also ready to take part in training specialists, in particular, the necessary personnel for a market economy.

[Savtsov] Does our cooperation have a chance of expanding to European dimensions?

[Lamassoure] We are very dedicated to European stability. In terms of its size and geographical situation, Ukraine is an important element in this stability. In January 1994, we welcomed your achievements in the sphere of disarmament. We hope that yet another step will be made after Ukraine ratifies the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Ukraine wants to live in peace with its neighbors. That is why we are pleased with your government's participation in the constituent conference dealing with the European Stability Pact, which will be held in Paris at the end of May. The European Union has adopted the French initiative, which is expected to help on finding pragmatic solutions to problems that may arise between the states of central and eastern Europe, more specifically, on minorities issues. We want Ukraine to take an active part in resolving these problems.

[Savtsov] Thank you for the interview.

National Affairs

Ukraine Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Victory Day

Kravchuk Addresses Kiev Meeting

LD0605204894

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1500 GMT on 6 May broadcasts a 6-minute live relay of a meeting with veterans in Kiev on the occasion of the Victory Day, where President Leonid Kravchuk made a short address. The following is the text of the address:

"Dear veterans, let me first of all congratulate you on the 49th anniversary of the victory. There are dates in the history of humankind that are of immortal significance. It is there where the victory belongs and it is one of those events that the victory in the Great Patriotic War is.

"Its role and significance are above all in that it saved civilization. It—and you as its participants—saved our land and our people, and it is our victory and your direct participation in it that made it possible for us today—with such difficulty and even in torment—to engage in nation-building and the construction of a new society. This is why whole generations are grateful to you for the victory and your great, honorable deed."

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Greet Sevastopol Veterans

LD0905142294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] In Sevastopol, veterans are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation on 9 May 1944. The streets and squares of this hero city have not seen for a long time such an enormous mass of people as that which gathered this morning. It was exactly half a century ago that the city was liberated from the fascists. Over 1,000 war veterans arrived for the celebrations. They laid flowers and wreaths at the fraternal graves and observed a minute of silence in honor of the dead.

At a requiem rally held on Nakhimov Square by the memorial to the heroic defenders of the city, greetings telegrams from the presidents of Ukraine and Russia were read.

The gathering greeted Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Sevastopol City Chairman Viktor Semenov.

Kravchuk Sends Greetings to Crimea

LD0905135494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has sent a letter to the residents of the Republic of Crimea. It says in part: Please accept my sincere greetings in connection with the glorious date of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Crimea from the German fascist invaders. The defense and liberation of Crimea is one of the brightest pages in the war, an example of the heroism and courage shown by people defending their native land.

We now have to live through a difficult time. The changes our society needs are taking place with great difficulty. But, the latter says, we have to go down the path of change and I hope we will manage to go down it,

preserving what people have that is most precious—accord, mutual understanding, friendly relations between one another.

Radetskyy Pays Tribute to Veterans

AU0905143694 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 May 94 p 1

[Interview with Minister of Defense Vitaliy Radetskyy by Mykola Motornyy; place and date not given: "We Will Fulfill Our Duty To Defend Ukraine!"]

[Text] [Motornyy] Vitaliy Hryhorovych, in a few days, Ukraine will celebrate the 49th anniversary of the victory over the fascist invaders. You were born at the end of the war. Do you remember your first Victory Day?

[Radetskyy] I remember how mother was preparing for this holiday. She baked patties and laid a festive table. The entire family was assembled. They remembered the strenuous war years. As a matter of fact, 9 May has become sanctified. So much blood was shed, so many people died, and so much property was burned down! Almost every Ukrainian family suffered. At that time nobody asked who did what during the war—everybody did everything for the common cause and defended his fatherland. Besides, my father, a participant in the war, told much about the fighting at the front. His elder brother commanded a regiment. Our family has always held this day in esteem.

I am sure that the present changes in Ukraine must not change the attitude toward veterans and toward the heroic deeds on all the fronts against the fascists. The people fought against an enemy who had come to enslave us. Today our veterans deserve more attention from the state and a better life. I have instructed deputy defense ministers, chiefs of central administrations, and commanders of the armed services and of Ukraine's Armed Forces districts to take care of communal graves and monuments and to greet the veterans. Let us be frank, we have not created suitable conditions for their lives. This is our common holiday, a day that we tried to bring nearer as much as we could.

[Motornyy] How will the holiday be marked by the troops.

[Radetskyy] On 9 May, we will hold solemn ceremonies, evening roll-calls, we will march with songs and bands, and, of course, fire the salute.

This year, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ukraine's liberation and next May the 50th anniversary of victory. A special badge to mark the 50th anniversary of Ukraine's liberation has been designed. There will also be a medal. At present, our administration for personnel and mobilization must compile lists of veterans. We must do everything in order not to overlook anyone. Our ministry is trying to see to it that the veterans get their pensions on time. I will personally greet all the Heroes of the Soviet Union and holders of the three grades of glory. Incidentally, in the capital alone, there reside more than 150 Heroes. An order has already been issued for Ukraine's Armed Forces servicemen to visit the hospitals. Young soldiers will visit and greet veterans—soldiers and officers.

[Motornyy] What is your attitude toward the Soviet Army's combat and military patriotic traditions?

[Radetskyy] Whether we want it or not, there exists the history of the former USSR, no matter how hard some people try to erase it. We have actually grown out of that history. It is the history of our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. Not everything was bad there. We must know about this and draw conclusions from that history. People have become used to extremes. First the monuments are erected, and now we want to destroy them right away. Leave them alone, so that they can remind us of those who made mistakes or committed crimes against their people. So that they will never be repeated.

We must now have great respect for those who fought for Ukraine's independence in the ranks of the Soviet Army and for those who liberated the homeland in the ranks of the Ukrainian Insurrection Army. In my opinion, it is still difficult to assess the events that happened half a century ago. We must find out who did what and where during the war and after it. We must thoroughly study history and the archives. Today we must pay tribute to those people who fought for the liberation and independence of the Ukrainian state. It is up to history to sort out on whose side and how they did it. Time is the best teacher.

Now about traditions. We must look upon them in a somewhat broader way—not only during the times of the former USSR. We will go back to the Bohdan Khmelnytskyy period. Patriotism was always appreciated, and the defender-warrior was held in esteem. Thus, everything that was good must be taken on by the Ukrainian Army and everything positive must be used, multiplied, and developed. Everything negative must serve as a lesson for the future. We must not repeat the mistakes of previous generations. We must change the people's mentality. Take [writer Aleksandr] Solzhenitsyn. He asserts in IZVESTIYA that Ukraine and Belarus cannot exist separately and that they must be within Russia. However, the United States and Canada can peacefully coexist. Why can we not coexist with Russia, Poland, Belarus, or Moldova?

[Motornyy] At this stage of building the Ukrainian State, we are in very bad need of modern armed forces that can defend the Ukrainian people. What are the components of our army's combat readiness?

[Radetskyy] From the former Soviet Union, we inherited three military districts, the fleet, the Air Force, and the air defense. Earlier, it was fashionable to reform the army [allusion to former defense minister Morozov]. Namely, reduce or increase the amount of military technology or personnel. At present, we must not engage

in reforms, but build our Armed Forces with a view to the future. Not a single state can exist without an institution of armed forces. It is one of the major guarantees of security for every country.

Two important issues were discussed at a recent committee of the Defense Ministry. The first concerned the plan for building the Armed Forces for the period between 1994 and 2010. The second dealt with the training of personnel, in particular, officers. The thing is that, during the transitional period, we not only sustained material losses; there also were shortcomings in the training of personnel and specialists, and in methods.

I believe that modern Ukrainian Armed Forces must not be large, but must be mobile, flexible, and equipped with up-to-date combat technology. They must be led by well-trained specialists. At present, we are raising the question of a mixed principle of bringing the army up to strength—compulsory regular service and service on a contractual basis. This is cheaper for the state. It is better to deal with specialists who are in perfect command of tanks, launchers, or radar stations, than with young people who have just come from institutes of higher learning, collective farms, or factories. For a year and a half to two years, the soldier will only just master the complex technology. When will he actually serve?!

Of course, in order to build a contemporary army, we need a strong economy. It is precisely the economy that determines everything, and in particular the combat readiness of the Armed Forces.

[Motornyy] Vitaliy Hryhorovych, despite our poverty, do the Armed Forces get proper attention?

[Radetskyy] Despite the difficult economic situation in Ukraine, we feel concern about our defender-warriors. It is pleasant to realize that the president, the government, and the main thing—the Ukrainian people, simple laborers—understand this. The numerical strength of our personnel has been specified. Ukraine's Armed Forces have three armed services—ground, marine, and airborne defense. Of course, we do not receive funds and fuel in the way that we would like to, the way that it was done before, when gasoline flowed like a river and there was enough money. However, fuel and uniforms are being supplied in sufficient amounts, there is decent medical care, and officers are getting their salaries. Unfortunately, sometimes there are delays. There occur problems that do not even depend upon the minister of defense or upon the Cabinet of Ministers.

Our army now has well-trained units and formations capable of defending sovereign Ukraine. It is precisely for that purpose that the Ukrainian Army exists. Of course, it would be better to have an army that would even today be perfectly well equipped with weapons and technology on full combat readiness....

On the eve of Victory Day, I want to report to the Ukrainian people that we are doing everything for the army to be able to do its direct duty—the defense of Ukraine. Incidentally the Ukrainian Army enjoys a high rating among the population—only the church is ahead of us. This has been confirmed by independent studies. Therefore, that tasks that the army is facing will be carried out with dignity.

I have become convinced that the army needs strong, courageous, and tough people, who are well trained both morally and physically. Sports occupy a leading position in it. Quite soon, soldiers will be examined for the winter term. In particular, everybody will be examined for physical fitness—from soldiers to the defense minister. We will examine all the soldiers, the warrant officers, the officers, and the generals.

[Motornyy] What is your personal attitude toward sports activities?

[Radetskyy] In the past, I went in for boxing and the military triathlon. The minister of defense starts his working day at 0730 in the morning and finishes at 2100 or 2200. That is an everyday practice. I also work on Saturdays. I sometimes even go to work on Sundays. Not because I fail to complete my work on weekdays. Simply, it is quieter on days-off—nobody calls you to various meetings. With such a workload, one simply cannot survive without sports.

[Motornyy] Among the readers of MOLOD UKRAYINY, there are many veterans of the great Patriotic War, the Ukrainian Insurrection Army, soldiers of the Armed Forces, and future defenders. What would you like to wish them on the eve of Victory Day?

[Radetskyy] We have always been MOLOD UKRAYINY's well-wishers (I am not saying this because its correspondent is sitting in my office). Your newspaper has always been loyal and understanding with regard to Ukraine's Armed Forces. It has never relished the shortcomings that we have, but perceived them as the concern of the entire society. I am very grateful to journalists for their support of the army. Of course, we must be criticized, but in a just manner. Taking this opportunity, I want to express my personal gratitude, as well as that of the military board and the entire officers' corps for their concern about the Ukrainian Army. I wish journalists and readers of MOLOD UKRAYINY lasting health and success in the building of Ukraine! I congratulate you on Victory Day!

Meshkov Participates in Celebrations

LD0905092694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Ceremonies devoted to the 50th anniversary of Crimea's liberation from the Hitlerite occupiers and to the 49th anniversary of Victory Day are continuing in Simferopol. Today the president of the autonomous republic met with delegations from hero cities and from some of Ukraine's cities. A ceremonial walk by participants of the celebrations from the city's Victory Park to the Eternal Flame took place.

Meshkov Speaks at Victory Day Meeting

LD0905145294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Addressing on May 9 a meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation from the fascist invaders, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov called Sebastopol the glory of the Crimea, Russia and the Black Sea Fleet. He told reporters that he orients to the interests of the republic and the Crimean people.

Meshkov said that at present the people of the Crimea are protecting their inalienable right to solve economic problems.

Commenting on the question that people of Sevastopol feel nostalgic over the former Soviet Union, Meshkov said that this is no nostalga, this is a normal attitude to the abnormal processes and the abnormal attitude to the people. He voiced hope that calm will be preserved in the Crimea and said that as the president he would do his best to achieve this. We pay minimum attention to political problems, we concentrate on our economic matters, he said.

Taking part in the festivities in Sebastopol were government delegations from Russia and Ukraine, representatives of the naval forces of Ukraine and the Black Sea Fleet.

The holiday was overshadowed by an incident. During the march representatives of the Ukrainian naval force carried yellow and blue Ukrainian flags. INTERFAX-UKRAINE reports that a small group of supporters of pro-Russian parties and movements welcomed sailors with whistles.

Meshkov Says Crimea 'Integral Part' of Ukraine

LD0805082694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0604 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 8 May—"I see Crimea's future relations with Ukraine as friendly," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said, answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent following a working meeting on 7 May in Simferopol between government delegations of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea. "They ought to be based solely on treaties."

At the same time Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said he regarded Crimea as an integral part of the Ukrainian state, and therefore believed that it was not necessary to conclude any special agreements. "We have nothing to divide; we are one family," he believes.

Journalists were told the two sides discussed a number of economic issues and reached understanding on some of them. This concerns, in particular, the provision of funds, oil products and seeds to the Crimea. A decision was also made to examine all arising issues at the level of heads of relevant ministries and departments.

Meshkov's Dismissal of Interior Minister Protested

LD0805135494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] As has already been reported, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov personally dismissed Oleksandr Plyuta from the post of interior minister of this autonomous republic. Ukrainian Interior Minister Andriy Vasylyshyn sent a letter to the executive head of that autonomous area about this matter.

The letter notes in particular that the Crimean president's decrees run counter to Ukraine's current legislation. The militia is a unified system of bodies, which are part of the structure of Ukraine's Interior Ministry and as such are subordinate to Ukraine's Interior Ministry. In Andriy Vasylyshyn's opinion, the Crimean president's decision regarding the interior minister should be reviewed.

This was reported by the Interior Ministry's main public relations center.

Meshkov, Zvyahilskyy Hold Talks on Crimea

LD0705213094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1930 GMT 7 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This evening talks were held in Simferopol between Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister of Ukraine. A noisy, rather unfriendly group of picketers met the Ukrainian delegation at the Supreme Council building, which is perhaps why the talks were held behind closed doors. However, at the news conference, journalists were assured that the range of questions were very much to do with day-to-day matters and that the conversation had been friendly. The sides discussed economic aid for Crimea, in particular for agriculture.

Journalists, alarmed by rumors that more Ukrainian troops were being sent to Crimea, that there was a threat of direct presidential rule over the peninsula, and that the presidential elections in Ukraine may be disrupted, asked how far all this was true. Yukhym Zvyahilskyy gave a short reply: It is all a provocation.

Demonstration Held on Crimean Constitution Day

LD0605135794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A demonstration and rally in honor of Crimean Constitution Day were held in Simferopol today. By a decree of Yuriy Meshkov, the president of the republic, this day has been declared a holiday. The Crimean constitution was adopted on 6 May 1992 and, as the participants in the rally pointed out, it reflects most fully the aspirations of Crimeans. It envisions that Crimea's relations with Ukraine will be based on a treaty and agreements. It stipulates the right to dual citizenship and independence vis-a-vis other states. However, at the insistence of the Ukrainian leadership, these articles were removed. They do not appear in the present, official constitution. The Crimean Republic Movement and a number of other parties and public organizations have been campaigning for the restoration of the original wording. Participants in a poll of Crimean citizens recently called for a revision of the constitution. Evidently this is why President Yuriy Meshkov decided that constitution day should be celebrated on 6 May, rather than some other day.

Addressing the rally, Meshkov said that Crimea had signed a treaty with the administration of Moscow and that a treaty would soon be signed with the Russian Federation. Crimean Constitution Day was also celebrated by patriotic forces in Sevastopol and by citizens of other towns.

Meshkov To Present Reform Package to Parliament

MK0605114094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Simferopol—President Yuriy Meshkov is planning to move to the first session of the newly elected Crimean Republic Supreme Soviet, due on 10 May, a package of five draft laws representing a concept for the peninsula's state and legal structure. This was announced yesterday by Oleg Rumyantsev, former Russian Federation people's deputy and secretary of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies. At present, he is an expert on this problem in the Crimea presidential administration. The drafts that Yuriy Meshkov is to submit to the Crimean parliament bear on Crimean citizenship, its treaty-based relations with Russia and Ukraine, and also restructuring its executive power branch, according to Mr. Rumyantsev, toward creating "a strong presidential republic." The concept for Crimea's state and legal structure, commissioned by Mr. Meshkov, has been worked out by the Reform foundation under Academician Stanislav Shatalin.

Head of Crimean Party on Domestic, Foreign Policy

WS0905073994 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Nikolayevich Klyuchnikov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the People's Party of the Crimea, by V. Korolkov; place and date not given: "From Opposition to Fruitful Work"]

[Text] [Korolkov] Vladimir Nikolayevich, during consultative meetings with deputies from the "Russia" bloc, you were considered to be a real candidate for the post of the Crimean Supreme Soviet chairman. By the way, your name was repeated both by independent deputies and deputies from working collectives and political parties. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Klyuchnikov] Along with my candidacy, some other candidates were also discussed. In my opinion, this issue will be regulated by the beginning of the first session. I do not fear the thought that a number of candidates for this post could be fielded. The key issue is that the majority of deputies from the "Russia" bloc, other parties and national groups understand that a Supreme Soviet chairman should organize the work of the legislature basing not on the differences and confrontation but on consolidation of all sane forces for the sake of normal legislative work which is required for the implementation of reforms and realization of the election promises by Crimean President Yu. Meshkov.

[Korolkov] You were one of the organizers of the Republican Movement of the Crimea [RDK] in August 1991. You put a lot of energy into the organization of this movement, headed the RDK Executive Council which has been the most popular opposition force in the Crimea recently. The RDK's ideas, along with the "Russia" bloc program, won. What are your next steps?

[Klyuchnikov] It is necessary to popularize the RDK's ideas otherwise the Crimean residents will stop supporting us. It will be difficult to do this because we were in opposition for more than three years while currently we have to change our methods and begin working constructively and creatively. It will not be easy for many former oppositionists, and—God save them!—I wish their process of transformation be painless. If they do not manage to change, I suspect that, in spite of performing normal legislative work, they will occupy positions of dissatisfied deputies or critics because this is easier and less responsible. I wish that the "Russia" bloc, its followers, and those who support our principles of legislative work, will form the basis for performing sane and constructive work in the newly elected Crimean Supreme Soviet.

[Korolkov] It means that the RDK's ideas are included in the "Russia" bloc program....

[Klyuchnikov] The election platform and "Russia" bloc program are wider than the RDK's ideas notably, that over the last three years, specific political changes took place. Nevertheless, we will not reject the key ideas of the RDK and will look for chances to realize them within the "Russia" bloc program supported by the majority of the Crimean voters during the presidential and Supreme Soviet campaigns.

[Korolkov] What are the key political aims of the "Russia" bloc deputies' faction in the Crimean Supreme Soviet?

[Klyuchnikov] There is no "Russia" bloc deputies' faction yet but it is being formed and its aims are detailed by the election program. This is a further development and establishment of the Crimean statehood. For us, the future of the Crimea can be only with union with Russia and other CIS states. We will draft and adopt our own laws on citizenship, local administration, detailed separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers, and deputy and state employees' status. The law on recall of deputies, which broadens the rights of the Crimean electorate, should be adopted by all means. The law on the Crimean constitutional court should become a guarantor of all Crimean laws and the Crimean constitution.

[Korolkov] However, you will not achieve any of your policies if economic issues are not resolved. What should the Crimean legislature do in this respect?

[Klyuchnikov] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's edicts laid the basis for resolving the Crimean issues. They should be reinforced by corresponding laws. It is very difficult to raise the standard of living through the acting budget and taxation system, for which Kiev rather than the Crimea should be blamed. In my opinion, the law on the Crimean Republican bank, which will be authorized to register subsidiaries of foreign banks, first of all, Russian ones, should become one of our first laws. To reconstruct resorts and other production sectors, we should seek to attract large investments to the Crimea on a legal footing and establish a system of legal benefits for investors. When adopting economic laws, we should first of all consider the interests of the Crimean producers. To do this, we should draft and adopt the law on protection of rights of Crimean producers. I admit that the work on drafting laws regarding privatization and implementation of reforms in the agrarian sector will be very difficult. Nevertheless, we hope to avoid mistakes which had been made in other CIS states, and, considering our experts's experience, we will draft laws appropriate to the specific economy of the Crimea and its population.

[Korolkov] What is your vision of the future foreign policy of the Crimea?

[Klyuchnikov] We will support Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's signing of treaties with Russia and Ukraine. Our main goal is the resolving of the dire domestic problems—primarily, economic ones—of the Crimea at the expense of its foreign policy. In particular, this concerns the program regarding the return of the deported peoples. Crimean foreign policy should bolster the resolving of the issues regarding the Black Sea Fleet, stationing of military units, environmental protection, in a word, all the issues which the Crimea cannot resolve independently. We hope that Russia will assist us in our foreign policy.

[Korolkov] Your friends from the Union of Afghan War Veterans say that you begin your work at six in the morning and finish at 10 in the evening. Is it really so?

[Klyuchnikov] I have such days, especially, of late. The work in the Crimean Cabinet of Ministers, the People's Party of the Crimea, which, along with the RDK, to set up the election bloc "Russia." [as published] But I have no right to forget the problems of Afghan war veterans. The state promised to resolve these problems but forgot about its promises. We have to earn the money to help our Afghan war veterans, the families of those who perished, and socially protect them.

[Korolkov] My last question is of a personal character: Have you time for your family?

[Klyuchnikov] Of course. I have two children, two growing up as Crimean residents, and I never forget about them. I wish they can grow and live in the happy land of the Crimea in peace and friendship with all peoples who live on our land of plenty and be happier than we are. I am an optimist even though I had to overcome many hardships but I believe in the future and fight for it.

Kuchma Believes More Deputies To Join Center Faction

LD0805153994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Kiev—A regular sitting of the Interregional Deputies Faction -Center (MDF-Tsentr) [Mizhrehionalna Deputatska Fraktsiya-Tsentr] on 5 May discussed the results of faction members' participation in working groups preparing for the first session of Ukraine's Supreme Council. In particular they discussed adopting the rules and determining the agenda of the first sitting. It was recognized that faction members should support the adoption of temporary rules, which would combine everything progressive from the rules of the previous Supreme Council, but would give greater advantages to deputies factions and groups.

Leonid Kuchma, cochairman of the Interregional Reform Bloc, proposed that they take a stand on which candidate to support for the post of speaker by the next MDF-Tsentr session. During the discussion Oleksandr Moroz, Vasyl Durdynets, Ruslan Bodelan, chairman of Odessa oblast council, and Volodymyr Hrynyov were named. Expressing a personal point of view, Leonid Kuchma stressed that he will hardly be able to support Vasyl Durdynets, although he respects his executive skills. As the other cochairman of the Interregional Reform Bloc—Volodymyr Hrynyov—has not yet made a final decision on whether to contend for the speaker's seat, the decision to support one or other contender was postponed until the next sitting of the faction, planned for 10 May.

Leonid Kuchma told a UNIAN correspondent that he is convinced that at least several dozen deputies from

among those who "have been forced to sign documents of other factions because of their official position or who have not yet adopted a final position," will join the MDF-Tsentr faction within a few days of the new parliament beginning work.

Kuchma on Political Activity, Presidential Prospects

WS0905105694 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 4 May 94 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Leonid Danilovich Kuchma, cochairman of the Interregional Bloc of Reforms, by V. Katsman; place and date not given: "I Am Not Khrushchev: I Can Compromise..."]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Katsman] Leonid Danilovich, let me touch upon the inner political life of Ukraine. What are your prospects in the upcoming 26 June presidential and local elections?

[Kuchma] When I am told that we urgently require a new constitution, I remain a supporter of the opinion that this is not a key issue. Hundreds of states have lived without a constitution. If we had a new constitution, we would have violated its clauses just as we are violating virtually all of the laws in our state. I am a supporter of the belief that a new power—able to make all people obey the law, including a constitution—should appear. If the issue of shifting the date of elections was backed by specific measures of an economic nature, some anticrisis measures, or a kind of balanced program (in my opinion, currently, we require extraordinary measures), then we could discuss the issue of shifting the elections. When this demand is only explained by drafting a constitution, I do not accept this idea. According to statistics, only 27 percent of Ukrainian enterprises operated in March. This represents a complete breakdown—extraordinary measures are required! Presidential elections should be held and Ukraine should receive a strong and stable executive branch!

[Katsman] Are the elections for local authorities necessary?

[Kuchma] I was, and still am, an adversary of holding the local elections. I am afraid that we will have 25 presidents of oblasts and the autonomous republic. I support a federal system in Ukraine, however, without political independence among the regions. We should empower regions with more economic rights but avoid turning them into islands of political tension. Local elections will strongly affect the vertical power structure. I am not sure that we would be able to adopt a decisive document if the oblast administration head is nominated for his post through the same popular elections as the state president (of course, there will be a difference in scale). Local elections could finally destroy the last few scraps of executive power that we still have.

[Katsman] Will the Interregional Bloc of Reforms (the Hrynyov-Kuchma bloc) step up its activity during the Supreme Council runoffs in 112 constituencies, where elections were not held on 27 March and 10 April?

[Kuchma] By all means! The bloc was organized not long ago (some five months ago), but we still somehow managed to make mistakes. For example, we virtually did not nominate any candidates in the Supreme Council elections. We only appealed for support for our joint statement with Vladimir Hrynyov. Therefore, this is probably the reason why our bloc's legislative faction won fewer seats than we had anticipated. The issue of toughening the rules of play arises: If you have agreed with some principles—adhere to them and act accordingly when you are elected a Supreme Council deputy! This is almost a form of party discipline, but it will provide an opportunity to bloc forces of the extreme right and left in the legislature. We will seriously deal with the runoffs, but we are not still sure if they will be held in mid-summer. Vladimir Hrynyov and I set up an open bloc, so I expect the faction to be of a similar nature. As for me, I do not believe that we will not find sane people among the socialists and communists, as well as among national-democrats. We should begin working right away. I would like to convene plenary sessions no later than 5 May.... You know, our bloc is open for any and all cooperation. As for me, I am not Khrushchev, who had rows with all communist parties around the world which had stepped away from Marxist-Leninist dogma....

[Katsman] You have entered the presidential campaign. What are your chances?

[Kuchma] I want to be fair with regard to those who have been nominated for this post along with myself. I assess my chances as equal to theirs.

[Katsman] Will Leonid Kravchuk participate in this marathon?

[Kuchma] Leonid Kravchuk is a shrewd politician. He is and will always remain the first president of independent Ukraine. I am sure that all the bad things will be forgotten. However, I believe that he will not participate in these elections. Nevertheless, we will see...

Collection of Presidential Candidate Signatures Ends

LD0705143794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The collection of signatures among the Ukrainian citizens in support of the contenders to the post of the Ukrainian president was concluded on 6 May.

Reliable sources told the agency INTERFAX-Ukraine that according to preliminary data, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, President of the Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Union and former premier Leonid Kuchma, the parliament ex-speaker Ivan Plyushch, Education Minister Petro Talanchuk, leader of the socialist party Aleksandr Moroz have collected the necessary

number of signatures (100,000 in all 27 electoral districts on the presidential elections, including not less than 1500 in 18 districts). There is no information about other contenders. As many as nine contenders were collecting signatures of the Ukrainian citizens.

Within five days the district electoral commissions are to verify the correctness of the signatures' collection and sum up the final results.

In accordance with the decree On Elections of Ukrainian President, after that district commissions are to forward their protocols to Ukraine's central election commission which is to adopt its decision on registration of the candidates within a week.

Elections of the Ukrainian president are scheduled for 26 June.

Council Set Up To Protect Ukrainian Statehood

WS0905144894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Creation of the Ukrainian Civil Council of the Crimea, UHRK, has been announced today in Simferopol at an expanded meeting of the Congress of Crimean Ukrainians with the participation of representatives of democratic parties, public organizations, and movements that operate on the peninsula. The Ukrainian Civil Council of the Crimea is a nationally-oriented parliament-type of representative body of the national and democratic forces. It was noted at the meeting that the establishment of this body was prompted by the Crimean crisis which is continuing to grow and is assuming a dangerous form. [word indistinct] of the Ukrainian Civil Council of the Crimea has set its primary goal as ensuring the inviolability of the Ukrainian borders, protecting and strengthening Ukrainian statehood in the Crimea, and maintaining political stability, peace and ethnic accord on the peninsula. The Ukrainian Civil Council [word indistinct] to craft alternative draft laws. It will help deputies of the democratic forces enter the parliament, promote forging of the pro-Ukrainian opposition in the Crimean Supreme Soviet, and provide [words indistinct] support.

Bloc Oppose Kravchuk's Election Postponement Call

LD0605165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] In an interview with the news agency INTERFAX-UKRAINE, a Communist leader and member of the Ukrainian parliament Piotr Simonenko said the bloc of left-wing forces in the national legislature would oppose President Kravchuk's call for the postponement of the 26 June presidential elections.

According to Simonenko, the Ukrainian Communists would see any move to reschedule the elections as illegal and would insist, even in defiance of a direct presidential decree, that the elections be held on 26 June.

The bloc of left-wing forces brings together the Communists, Socialists and the Ukrainian Farmers' party. It has some 120, or more than one third, of the parliament's 338 distributed mandates and can block the endorsement of what it sees as ill-intended amendments to the national Constitution.

Simonenko said the Communists would support the candidacy of Socialist leader Aleksandr Moroz in the presidential elections. Most other presidential nominees, he said, had already had a chance to serve Ukraine but failed to perform well in positions of power. In principle, however, the Ukrainian Communists opposed the institute of the presidency.

According to Simonenko, the left-wing bloc would aim primarily to insure economic stabilization. It intended, first of all, to put in order the national taxation system by balancing the producers' and the country's interests.

In Simonenko's view, the producers must be given a chance to streamline production with the help of government-controlled levers. Activities in the financial and credit fields must be controled. Simonenko held high credit rates responsible for economic recession in Ukraine.

Republicans Decide To Fight Against Leftist Forces

WS0605082894 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 1-7 May 94 p 2

[Report by Vasyl Ganzha: "A Spike Should Ripen: Our Society Is Not Grown Up Enough To Have Its President"]

[Text] Much time has passed since the Republican Party of Ukraine [URP] issued its protest against the early presidential and local elections that endanger our statehood. The state lacks a legal basis for these political actions and they could only exacerbate the political situation in Ukraine which could also trigger irretrievable consequences. However, both power bodies and various political forces are pushing ahead with these elections to take advantage of the populist campaign at a time of mass impoverishment. Therefore, it is hardly possible that elections will be postponed until some later date.

Taking this situation into consideration, the URP convened its extraordinary congress on 23 April in Kiev. The key focus was on the issues of party tactics during the upcoming elections. Having analyzed the situation in the state and postelection realities, Mykhaylo Goryn harshly criticized the egoism of national democrats who cannot unite even at such a decisive moment for the Ukrainian nation. The URP chairman said that leaders of leftist political forces, who are especially dangerous because of their pro-imperial, pro-Russian orientation,

wish to grab power. Former Prime Minister Kuchma—whose wide powers in the industrial sector brought the Ukrainian economy to a ruinous state—is not less dangerous than Symonenko or Moroz. All of a sudden, this person, who constantly sowed the seeds of disbelief in people's own strength and stated that we are nothing without Russia, decided to head the state which was always disregarded by him.

Levko Lukyanenko realistically assessed all possible candidates for president: Ivan Plyushch, Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma, and Oleksandr Moroz. The Republicans have to elect the first two because only they are the Ukrainian statesmen. The honored head of the URP preferred the candidacy of Ivan Plyushch because our current president, in his opinion, lacks decisiveness in fighting for the interests of Ukraine. When it was necessary to use force and power, L. Kravchuk used continuous discussions and explanations. He is a talented propagandist but this is not enough for a president who heads the state at the beginning of its development.

The issue of nominating a URP candidate for president was also discussed. Mykola Porovskyy preferred this step because, in his opinion, a political force which does not participate in a presidential campaign, loses its prestige with the population. He proposed the candidacy of Mykhaylo Goryn, however, both the URP chairman and the majority of the URP delegates did not agree to this proposal. The recent elections demonstrated that our society is not grown up enough to elect national-democrats. As for the participation in the presidential elections to advocate party ideas and work out the party image, this action demands big money and their rivals have, to our regret, advantages in this sphere. Therefore, the URP will participate in the elections indirectly to fight against the leftist forces.

Congress discussed the political situation in the Crimean peninsula which, due to separatist actions by local leaders, threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Crimean developments prompted the adoption of the resolution on the establishment of the Group for Elimination of Consequences of the Crimean Crisis, which will raise spiritual and material resources to promote peaceful democratic and economic reforms and the building of the Ukrainian statehood in the region. Congress proposes that other political parties and public organizations elect their representatives for this mission and act in close cooperation. The resolution demands that L. Kravchuk use his legal power to urgently restore Ukrainian laws on the Crimean territory and even to introduce a direct presidential administration on the peninsula.

Nationwide Movement Head Quits Presidential Race

LD0605144694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN has already reported that the Central Electoral Commission on 5 May registered Larysa Skoryk, Nationwide Movement of Ukraine leader, as a contender for the Ukrainian presidential candidacy. Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent on 6 May, she said that that report was outdated as she had submitted an application to the Central Electoral Commission for her candidacy to be withdrawn. "I was nominated when Leonid Kravchuk had not yet decided to take part in the presidential election. When that happened, I wrote a letter declining to run," she said. In Larysa Skoryk's words, she did not expect to win but wanted "to spoil a little bit the mood of such contenders as Leonid Kuchma." Larysa Skoryk said that in the event of the presidential election being held, the Nationwide Movement of Ukraine would back Leonid Kravchuk "who will undoubtedly gather 100,000 in his support." The organization led by her has taken part in the collection of these signatures.

UNIAN has been informed by the Central Electoral Commission that Larysa Skoryk's application for the withdrawal of her candidacy was dated 5 May. She received forms to collect signatures in her support on the same day.

Rukh Groups Demand End to 'Political Terror'

LD0805111794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 5 May—RUKH-PRESS reports that the Kherson regional Rukh and "Ukraine" democratic associations have sent a statement to Ukraine's president demanding that an end be put to the political terror the document's authors say is being perpetrated in the oblast. The statement talks of threats addressed to Mykola Seredenyk, head of the Borislavskiy rayon Rukh and editor of the NARODNYY VISNYK BORYSLAVSHCHYNY. (Incidentally, the investigation into the murder of Ivan Seredenyk, his brother, which was committed a year ago, has not yet been completed.)

The statement's authors drew Leonid Kravchuk's attention to the fact that the terror, which gained momentum during the election campaign, has not stopped, even though the election campaign has finished. Svyatoslav Mohylivskyy, a former candidate for people's deputy, and Hryhoriy Tkachenko, a member of the regional Rukh leadership, were recently attacked.

The regional Rukh has warned the president, Oleksandr Melnykov, his representative in the oblast, and Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of Rukh: "If an end is not put to the political gangsterism, then we reserve the right to take resolute measures to defend our members and supporters."

Official Warns of Bloodshed if Donbass Secedes

AU0905083294 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 May 94 p 1

[Article by Ukraine's People's Deputy Volodymyr Mefodiyovych Pylypchuk, member of the Ukrainian Supreme

Council Presidium and chairman of the Commission for Issues of Economic Reform and National Economy Management: "Does the Donbass Experiment Have a Chance?"]

[Text] I must say that I would use the accountant's approach here. An accountant always estimates what is positive and what negative in a project and then comes up with a balance. I do not see anything positive about this experiment. Suppose a federalization had taken place and Ukraine's Donbass had been left to develop its own economy, either federal or state-controlled. Then the question would arise in Kiev, or in the state: Where to purchase coal? In Russia, where it is dozens of times cheaper, or in Donbass. You would, of course, say in Russia.

Let us imagine that Donbass had joined Russia, as the separatists want. Let us imagine for a moment that this had taken place, although this cannot happen without bloodshed. Have you imagined it? In Russia, coal is dozens of times cheaper than that extracted in Donbass, and the difference is even greater now—even today, dozens of Russian coal mines are going bankrupt, because there are no markets. Tell me, whose coal would Russia buy? Donbass coal, which is dozens of times more expensive than Russia's? You cannot tell businessmen what to purchase—they choose the coal and foodstuffs that are cheaper. Who can now say what would happen to Donbass in such a case? Today, Ukraine purchases Donetsk coal, because Donbass is our region, and we must support its existence, no matter what prices they set; we even allow them to be monopolists. If Donbass joins the Russian Federation economically or even administratively, Russia will not buy its coal, because it is too expensive. Ukraine will not purchase it, as it will prefer Russian or Polish coal. What will happen to the people? Between 5 and 7 million people will be left without means for subsistence. Is this an advantage?

Second. No single state gives away territories voluntarily; and Ukraine will not give away Donbass. There are examples. It is already the seventh year that the war has been going on in Karabakh. Have the warring sides made any breakthroughs? No. How many human lives have been lost?! The same here. If somebody in Donbass tries, on the quiet of the experiment, to separate and draw a new border between Ukraine and Russia, this border will be washed with blood, and much blood.

In this connection, I would like to appeal to normal people, residents of Donbass: Restrain those who are firing up your territory. It does not matter who does this; the same applies to the Crimea. Either pro-Russian or pro-Ukrainian forces, chauvinists, or nationalists—one spark would suffice to set this territory on fire. You must come to your senses and stop those who are looking for trouble.

Circulation of Foreign Currency To Be Banned

PM0905123594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Mariya Starozhitskaya report: "Circulation of Foreign Currency Will Be Suspended in Ukraine"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine intends to ban the free circulation of any currency but the karbovanets on its territory.

Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy said that the corresponding cabinet of ministers and National Bank decree has already been drafted and will come into force in a few days as one element in the preparations for the coming introduction of the hryvnya. The regulated rate of the national currency has been raised from 12,600 to 13,100 karbovantsy per U.S. dollar, but it will not be abolished—that is one of the terms on which Ukraine is being given IMF credit. The average bank rate of the dollar is 45,000 karbovantsy today.

Ex-Nuclear Official Says Safety Not Stressed

LD0805151394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1640 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Kiev [No dateline as received]—In a conversation with a UNIAN correspondent on 6 May, Heorhiy Kopchynskyy, former first deputy chairman of the state committee for nuclear and radiation safety, who left his post several months ago, noted that the state of Ukraine's nuclear power now is reminiscent of the preperestroyka situation, when safety problems were kept in the background. The tendency to return to monopolism in the sector, secrecy, and the adoption of decisions without taking account of the opinions of specialists and the public has been observed over the course of the year. "The endeavors of the state committee for nuclear and radiation safety to counteract this," Heorhiy Kopchynskyy said, "have led to a situation where over time they stopped inviting us to consultations at the government level where the fate of nuclear power was being decided. Our attempts to introduce world approaches to safety problems evoked active counteraction on the part of the government. This was capped by the adoption of the decision on the further operation of Chernobyl nuclear power station, when the opponents of the decision—the Health Ministry, the Environment Ministry, and the state committee for nuclear and radiation safety—were not considered either in the government or in parliament."

"While supporting the existence of nuclear power," Heorhiy Kopchynskyy observed, "I consider the priority task to be its safety, which the state committee for nuclear and radiation safety should be observing. But when the committee becomes a burden for the government and decisions are taken behind its back, then I consider it impossible to remain there. I do not want to bear the responsibility for others' decisions that run counter to the very philosophy of safety."

Funds Unavailable for 1994 State Energy Plan

WS0905071494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The fulfillment of the state plan for supplying Ukraine with electric energy in 1994 is impossible due to a number of reasons. This is the essence of a statement by managers of Ukraine's nuclear energy complex, which was made public yesterday. The statement notes that there are no funds for purchasing nuclear fuel and spare parts. According to the authors of the statement, an urgent decrease in tariffs on electric energy and a state credit for the Ministry of Energy for repaying the debt of nuclear power plants are necessary.

Kravchuk Signs Edict Liberalizing Export Procedures

LD0705123394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] On Thursday 5 May, President Kravchuk signed an edict that liberalizes Ukraine's export procedures with the view of expanding exports of Ukrainian commodities and thus (promote) foreign currency income. The edict specifies in particular that a list of commodities are approved for which quota and licence issue regulations are nullified in 1994, as well as that licence-issue procedures are no more applicable to commodities not covered by the quota regulations. The cabinet is further instructed to draft, within a month's term, and submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a law on necessary amendments to the cabinet edict that regulate exports of commodities and services and to adjust within a two-week term its own resolutions to this edict.

Belarus

Economic Adviser to Supreme Soviet Chairman Appointed

WS0605082794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1630 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Candidate of Economic Sciences Mikalay Pankrutski has been appointed economic adviser to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman. Mikalay Pankrutski, 34, graduated from the Belarusian Agricultural Academy; worked at the Western Region Department of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences and at the International Agricultural Administration of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers. He also completed a training course at the World Bank on analysis of economic projects.

Further Details on Official Visit to Moldova

WS0905072194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by Leanid Alyok]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The main goal of a visit by [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Mechyslaw Hryb and [Prime Minister] Vyacheslaw Kebich to Chisinau is to strengthen economic and cultural ties between Belarus and Moldova. Having arrived here at the invitation of this country's leaders, the Belarusian delegation today conducted fruitful work. Mechyslaw Hryb and Vyacheslaw Kebich held negotiations with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, which were concluded by signing two intergovernmental agreements: an economic and trade agreement and an agreement on social protection of citizens. Also signed was a protocol on consultations between the Moldovan and Belarusian Foreign Ministries. At a news conference, the state leaders emphasized that the agreements signed here are in the interest of both states and the people.

At 1500, Mechyslaw Hryb and Vyacheslaw Kebich went their separate ways, as the saying goes. The Cabinet of Ministers chairman and the parliament speaker followed their own programs of the visit, which had been prepared, as I suspect, in accordance with their specific functions and responsibilities. Mechyslaw Hryb held a meeting with Moldovan Supreme Council Chairman Petro (?Kuchynskiy), and Vyacheslav Kebich toured the western regions of Moldova. The Belarusian prime minister visited a children's resort in the city of [name indistinct], and at a history museum, he learned about social and cultural aspects of the development of the Moldovan countryside.

Free Trade Agreement Signed With Moldova

WS0905071694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] At a time when the CIS is trying to abolish customs duties, Moldova and Belarus are introducing a free trade regime, said Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich, at a ceremony where he signed a trade and economic agreement for 1994 in Chisinau between the two countries. The system of payments and the unfixed exchange rate of both countries' national currencies are the greatest obstacles on the way to implementing this agreement, the Belarusian Government leader pointed out. The unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems, in the opinion of Vyacheslaw Kebich, will not hamper trade and economic cooperation between Moldova and Belarus.

Presidential Candidate Signature Campaign To End 15 May

WS0905080394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission for Election of Belarusian President has resolved that 15 May will be the last day for delivering lists with signatures in support of presidential candidates. Rayon and city commissions will work on 14 and 15 May until 1800. Commission members have explained that their decision is connected with the fact that the deadlines for conducting certain electoral activities have been shortened.

Official Views Electoral Law Flaws

WS0905075694 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 28 Apr 94 pp 1,2

[Interview with Anatol Hurynovich, deputy chairman of the Minsk City Council, by Lyudmila Klaskowskaya; place and date not given: "One Should Do His Best To Make Presidential Campaign Fair"]

[Text] [Klaskowskaya] The presidential campaign is already under way, and you must have your first observations...

[Hurynovich] As is known, at the first stage, initiating groups in charge of collecting signatures for their candidates tried to register with the Central Commission. The number of those groups alone shows that the presidential campaign is going to be hot.

At that time, the organization of the city and district electoral commissions was initiated, the participation in which was sought by different political organizations and working teams. Their reasons are only too clear: With our thus far very weak democratic traditions, every political force wants to have its "eye" there. To maintain popular trust in those commissions, we admitted a broad circle of political parties. The commissions have been set up by now, and their personal line-up was made public.

Now, as you know, the initiating groups have begun collecting signatures for their candidates.

[Klaskowskaya] Do you have any more observations regarding this first presidential campaign held in Belarus?

[Hurynovich] First, the electoral law, which was hastily adopted, is not perfect. It failed to sufficiently specify the election procedures in the military and in restricted-admittance medical institutions. Poorly thought out is a provision saying that under certain circumstance, citizens may vote within 10 days [as published]. There will be problems with putting together electorate lists.

In addition, we are concerned about the prospective turnout. The election day, 23 January, is Thursday, which is one day before the weekend. You cannot guarantee that people will not grab all four days to leave for their suburban land plots.

[Klaskowskaya] The presidential campaign promises to be exhausting both for the candidates and their teams. What difficulties do you and the structures that will be created on the city and district levels anticipate in ensuring smooth elections?

[Hurynovich] I had a meeting with deputy chairmen and administration heads at the Minsk city districts council the other day. They were surprised that the draft electoral law was not published in the press. People who, as they say, cut their teeth on this, could have helped make this law more accomplished.

The main burden is now carried by the city districts. Top priority issues include staking out boundaries of constituencies and setting up electoral commissions there. In addition, time is pressing.

[Klaskowskaya] The law guarantees equal rights and conditions for each contender for the presidential post. But we all know just how it is in real life. What are the illegal campaigning methods that we will have to weed out?

[Hurynovich] Due to a rudimentary political culture and a lack of basic ethics, the campaign will surely provide us with many surprises. There can be no equal opportunities for all presidential candidates at a time when all media are monopolistically owned by the state. Evidence of this is already on hand. No sooner had the prime minister signed the monetary merger agreement (I personally view this fact as a propaganda ploy on the eve of the elections) than all the media exploded with reports touting the good that Kebich supposedly did for Belarus. Why weren't economists, independent experts, and politicians given an opportunity to present their educated and objective opinions about this treaty? This kind of political "game" will be very dangerous if played throughout the campaign.

[Klaskowskaya] Your own experience has taught you many things...

[Hurynovich] Running for a seat at the Minsk City Council, I myself experienced the foul methods of my political rivals. The mudslinging machine is well-maintained. One day they spread rumors that you were embracing... a fascist, but the next day, it suddenly turns out that you are not a fascist, but a good friend of Belarus.

Such practices are still used today. Many people excelled especially well in this type of "campaigning." Some of them used to be highly-paid party hacks and came from Russia to install communism here and manipulate public opinion with Bolshevik tricks, mixing lies with a small dash of truth. Others, like a bureaucrat from the Cabinet of Ministers and the prime minister's press secretary, engage in political falsifications disparaging political opponents to their chiefs. If the prime minister is for a fair campaign, he should be the first to stop Mr. Zamyatalin.

Officials and state institutions should not be allowed to participate in the campaign during working hours. One cannot tolerate a situation when the entire state administration machine, putting important matters aside, is engaged in an election campaign. There is evidence that emissaries traverse the entire Belarus during their working hours to coerce local leaders and the electorate into voting for their candidate. They also get people to participate in initiating groups contrary to their will.

The government and the Central Electoral Commission has even issued rules for using mass media by presidential candidates. But look at item 9: Major media receive subsidies from the Cabinet of Ministers. He who pays orders the music, but the Cabinet of Ministers pays the money that comes from the electorate. What equal conditions can we talk about when the media work in favor of some candidate, and for our money at that?

Incidentally, the democratically-oriented Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly, the United Democratic Party of Belarus, the Party of People's Accord, the National Democratic Party, and others signed an agreement on the joint political fight. And one more thing, only time will tell whether judicial institutions will impartially control implementation of the electoral law.

[Klaskowskaya] It is said that the party of power will exert pressure on electoral commissions to neutralize its opponents. Do you agree that this is possible?

[Hurynovich] Yes. However, I hope that the commissions are staffed with honest people who will strictly abide by the law, regardless of their political convictions. Besides, one should not forget that in the opposite case, they may face administrative and criminal charges.

The presence of observers at the electoral districts is another condition for holding fair elections. The procedure for their appointment is quite democratic, and I think, there will be no problems here.

[Klaskowskaya] But still, is it possible that a candidate, having garnered the required number of votes, might trip over some bureaucratic obstacles or hit some hidden snag?

[Hurynovich] I see no such snags. Of course, if someone collects exactly 100,000 signatures, he might not be registered as a candidate. The district commissions are tasked with overseeing activities of initiating groups. In case of a violation on their part (for example, an individual signed for the same candidate on two different signature lists), all those 100,000 votes are gone. I would advise signature collectors to be cautions regarding provocations.

[Klaskowskaya] In this situation, much depends on the electorate itself...

[Hurynovich] I would ask all the voters to treat the presidential elections very seriously. At this point, many of them find it difficult to determine their own position. Let me remind them again that the electoral law allows one voter to sign for several contenders for the presidential post [previous sentence published in boldface]. After that, they will get a chance to read their programs and determine which one they would vote for on 23 June.

Lukashenka Vows To Conclude Corruption Case

WS0905072794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] People's Deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka yesterday began his meetings with Mahilyow residents. In the morning, he visited the oblast hospital and addressed medical personnel and patients who gathered in the hospital conference room. In a 30-minute speech, he presented his opinion on the unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems, privatization, and the Republic's sovereignty.

Alyaksandr Lukashenka did not speak of his presidential program. He only outlined its certain aspects and ways of implementing it, explaining that it was not an electoral address as such. Regarding the work of the Supreme Soviet commission he heads, Alyaksandr Hryhorovich pledged to conclude the corruption case.

Ecological Party To Join 'Political Battle'

WS0905071894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Belarusian Ecological Party [Belaruskaya Ekolohichnaya Partyya—BEP], which has recently been registered with the Ministry of Justice, pledges to protect everyone's right to clean air and water, healthy food, and a safe life on one's own land. In their platform statement, members of the new party call on all Belarusian citizens to personally participate in the environmental movement. Only this, in their opinion, can prevent the ecological and physical degradation of our nation.

The BEP announces that it intends to join the political battle, to have real influence on the work of the Belarusian Government and parliament.

Note From Russia on Rules for Coordinating Visits

WS0905081694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1200 GMT 6 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Belarusian Foreign Ministry Receives Note From Russia"]

[Text] The Belarusian Foreign Ministry has received a note from the Russian Foreign Ministry saying that "the Russian Government adopted a decision to keep in line with generally accepted international practices, according to which official and working visits by heads of states and other representatives of the executive bodies of the CIS states, just as with other states, are subject to preliminary agreement through diplomatic channels. Visits to Russia—not agreed upon previously—by leaders of executive bodies of foreign states will be considered by Russia as private visits." As BELAPAN has been told by the Department of Bilateral Relations within the Foreign Ministry, this is an ordinary document specifying relations between sovereign states. In the opinion of representatives of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, all contacts between our Republic and Russia should be coordinated by the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. By the way, the Russian side will also observe similar rules.

Moldova

Premier, Belarus Counterpart Sign Agreements

AU0705173194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—Today, 5 May, a series of agreements were signed between the Republic of Moldova and Belarus. The package consisted of the Economic and Commercial Agreement for 1994, the agreement concerning mutual social protection of citizens employed in these two countries, the Agreement concerning consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and a series of economic contracts focusing on the agro- industrial sphere. After the ratification of the documents, which took place at noon, the Moldovan Premier Andrei Sangheli and Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich held a press-conference. Vyacheslav Kebich declared that each side raised economic and political issues of common concern. Premier Andrei Sangheli declared that a new phase begins in the economic relations between Moldova and Belarus, due principally to Moldova's adherence to the CIS. Both premiers mentioned that currently all the barriers hindering trade between Moldova and Belarus are removed. Referring to the collaboration between these two countries in the sphere of foreign policy, Kebich declared to BASA that Moldova and Belarus will coordinate their actions in the international arena and will not oppose one another. Sangheli added that up to the present moment the republics had helped one another in the spheres of politics, economics, finance, banking, etc. The

agreement stipulating mutual support in the international political and economic structures was also signed today. Mechislav Grib and other representatives of the Belarusian Parliament will meet with Moldovan Speaker Petru Lucinschi and other parliamentary representatives. The members of the Belarusian delegation will today visit some northern Moldovan districts.

CE Official Discusses Association Prospects

AU0705173794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—Today, 5 May, Hans Peter Furrer, head of Political Affairs Board of the Council of Europe (CE) Secretariat, visiting Moldova as head of an official delegation of the Council of Europe, met with Nicola Osmochescu, Moldovan vice minister of foreign affairs. Furrer stated during the meeting that "Moldova's adherence to the Council of Europe is also an objective of the CE Parliamentary Assembly." Moldova is a "stable candidate" for this international organization. The first and main steps in its democratic development were the free elections while the new constitution, judiciary, institutional and administrative reforms are being designed, mentioned Hans Peter Furrer. Osmochescu informed Furrer about the socio-political situation in Moldova and the progress of the settlement of the conflicts in eastern and southern Moldova. He pointed out that the legislative norms regarding the regions' special status are being worked out. The CE delegation will meet tomorrow with President Mircea Snegur, parliament representatives, the minister of foreign affairs, Mihail Popov, and other members of the government. It will also meet persons responsible for the negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol, representatives of the districts densely inhabited by Gagauzians and members of non-governmental and non-political public organizations.

Turkish Officials, Gagauz Leaders Discuss Cooperation

AU0705193994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—Yesterday, Ambassador Umut Arik, chairman of the International Cooperation Agency of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ender Arat, Turkish general consul to Chisinau, met with Stepan Topal, president of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic. Andrei Ibrisim, Gagauz presidential spokesman, stated to BASA that economic issues, in particular the possibility of investments in the region made by Turkish businessmen, were analyzed during the meeting. The possibility of implementing a telephone network in southern Moldova was also discussed. The "Teletas" Turkish firm is willing to grant for this purpose $9,000,000 and another $6,000,000 for creating a telephone station in Chisinau. The possibility of constructing a tile factory in the region was also discussed. The Turkish diplomats also met with representatives of the Comrat Government and Supreme Soviet. Arik also visited Comrat TV staff and promised it technical and financial support, said Ibrisim.

Results of Turkish Official's Visit

AU0705194194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—Turkey provided equipment for a printing house in Moldova to print newspapers in Turkish with Latin script, stated to reporters Umut Arik, ambassador and chairman of the "Tica" International Cooperation Agency of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to Arik, Turkey intends to open a Moldovan-Turkish Center of Culture in Chisinau. The Turkish Government provided $50,000 for the construction of a brick factory. This sum represents only half of a loan granted by the Turkish Government. Goods produced in the East pass through Moldovan territory to the European market. Therefore, Turkey is willing to finance the building of a highway stretching 100 km to unite Moldova's borders. It will be connected to the future Giurgiulesti Port. "Turkey tries to assist properly and find finances for the construction of the port," said Arik. According to him, Moldova needs to improve its economy and especially its agricultural sector. From 23-28 May, a conference for the businessmen of Turkey and other countries will be held in Chisinau. It will analyze the possibilities of investment in the Moldovan economy and the legislation on foreign investments. According to Arik, the "Tica" agency will prepare several projects for developing the Moldovan economy to be forwarded to the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "Suleyman Demirel's visit to Moldova to take place on 1 June proves that Moldova constitutes a priority in Turkey's foreign relations," emphasized Arik.

Snegur, New Pakistan Ambassador Discuss World Issues

AU0705173994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—President Mircea Snegur received today, 5 May, the accreditation letters from the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Moldova Nawabzada Mahbob Ali Khan [name as received], states a Presidential Press Service communique. During the meeting Snegur said that Moldova is ready to collaborate with Pakistan in pursuit of long lasting world peace. Both agreed that an efficient collaboration between the two states within international organizations would be welcome and recalled that Pakistan was one of the first governments to recognize Moldova. "Our aim is to integrate within the European structures as quickly as possible, but Asia is not without importance for Moldova," said Snegur.

Nawabzada Mahbob Ali Khan began activity in 1973 within the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). He performed a number of diplomatic functions at home and afterwards at Pakistan's embassies in Ankara (1979-80), London (1984-87), and Dhaka (1987-90). He then worked as chief of MFA. Now he is Pakistani Ambassador in Romania.

Snegur, Belarus Delegation Discuss Bilateral Issues

AU0705172294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—Today, President Mircea Snegur had a meeting with the President of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Mechislav Grib and Premier Vyacheslav Kebich, who currently conduct an official visit to Moldova, states a Presidential Press Service communique. Both sides stressed at the meeting the importance of deepening and extending the bilateral relations on multiple levels between the two countries. Snegur mentioned that "relations between Moldova and Belarus can serve as a model of prosperous cooperation within the CIS economic zone." Referring to the political aspect of cooperation, Snegur underlined the necessity of mutual support in preventing military conflicts of various sorts. "After the 27 February elections and the opinion poll 'La sfat cu poporul' [What People Advise] favourable conditions were created for the resolution of the problems in the eastern and Gagauz regions," mentioned Mircea Snegur. The president also noted that if reasonable compromises will be accepted, the situation could be improved in the nearest future. In their turn, the guests referred mainly to the presidential elections campaign in Belarus. They also thanked the Moldovan people for their support of Belarusians who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster, says the Presidential Press Service communique.

CIS Seen as 'Necessity' for Future

PM0605141594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 First Edition p 5

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova "CIS: Dead End or Way Out?"]

[Text] Chisinau—Moldova joined the CIS to wails from the opposition about its loss of independence and about a new form of imperial oppression. But the opposition's opinion this year cannot influence the decisions of the ruling agrarian majority. All the more so as it is no secret that those who shout loudest about the loss of the Republic's independence are least interested in it. They mainly support unification with Romania and see Moldova's membership of the CIS as yet another major obstacle in the way of implementing their cherished dream of becoming part of the neighboring state.

But the CIS issue cannot be seen merely in black and white terms. It is much more complicated. The opponents also include people who have no desire to join Romania but who are worried that such a powerful country as Russia will dictate its political and economic will and turn Moldova into its satellite.

"That is the mentality in small countries," economist A. Muravskiy [name as transliterated], an agrarian deputy, told me. "They differ from big countries in being more sensitive to any infringement of their rights in a partnership."

Also cautious about the CIS are the so-called "Westerners," who see the cure to all their ills as lying in the opposite direction to the east. But many economists believe that it will be impossible for the Republic to break into the Western market in the immediate future. At any rate, the first two months of this year cannot be called a success. Relations with the far abroad are as follows—the Republic's imports exceeded its exports fourfold. And the bulk of these shipments were paid for with hard currency. Is it possible in this situation to seriously talk about entering the Western market or at least of balancing foreign trade?

Paradoxically, it will be easier for Moldova to team up with the West by going through the eastern market. So, whichever way you slice it—whether it be tough or desirable—the CIS is a necessity for Moldova. On the basis of the results of the first two months of the year the CIS countries account for around 75 percent of Moldova's foreign trade turnover. And the main country is Russia. It accounts for almost 62 percent, and is followed by Ukraine (6.5 percent) and Belorussia [Belarus] (2.3 percent). But even here Moldova's trade is by no means in the black. Its deficit is 137 million lei. Under the corresponding article of the treaty, CIS membership means for Moldova freer movement of goods, services, money, and labor, coordination of its monetary, credit, and fiscal policy, and more acceptable customs duties—and, consequently, prices for goods.

But this decision—long-awaited by some and undesirable for others—will not of itself make things any easier overnight. This is already clear even to the most convinced supporters of the Commonwealth, who have lived through the period of naive romanticism when it had seemed that it would be enough to sign the treaty and the economic wheel would move toward stabilization. The political train, crushing the old economy underneath it, has gone a long way. Whether forward or backward—only time will tell, but there is no doubt that other realities have emerged. Just as something else is obvious too. The new economy to back up those realities has not yet emerged. We are merely calculating our losses. Moldova remains without any industry. Whereas a few years ago industry accounted for 67 percent when it came to forming the budget, last year it accounted for just 9.3 percent. And the slump has not been halted.

It will hardly be possible to rapidly restore our broken ties. And Moldovan Prime Minister A. Sangheli sees their loss as one of the main causes of the current crisis.

Justice Minister Discusses Reorganization

AU0705194394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1758 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 5/5/1994—The rearrangement in the Ministry of Justice will be performed according to judiciary reform just when it comes into effect, declared to BASA Vasile Sturza, Moldovan minister of justice. According to judiciary reform, changes in both the Ministry of Justice and other justice organs will take place, he specified. The number of ministry departments and the objectives of their activities will not be considerably altered; only some slight modifications have been planned, said Sturza. No personnel cuts will be enacted in the Ministry of Justice, excluding the vice-minister and five employees from auxiliary personnel. At the same time, an expansion of the Department of Legislation is planned, for its employees are overtaxed by the number of legislative acts to be designed and transferred to the Parliament for adoption [words indistinct].

Kazakhstan

Council of Ministers Approves Land Reform Decrees

LD0605160394 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] Recently President Nursultan Nazarbayev has adopted two important decrees which will play an important role in facilitating the land reform: "On Certain Issues Related to Regulation of Land Relations" and "On Further Facilitation of Land Relations." A KAZTAG correspondent interviewed Bakhyt Ospanov, chairman of the state republican committee for land and land tenure. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic has approved the average assessed value on the right to use or lease land. In Almaty, for example, one square meter is estimated at 50 tenge, in Karaganda—13.4, in settlements—1.3, in farms—0.7 tenge per square meter. In Almaty Oblast the estimated value of one square meter of land comprises half of its cost in the capital. The territorial branches (regional and city committees) of the state committee for land and land tenure are allowed to increase or lower (maximum by a factor of two) the estimated value on the right to use or lease land depending on the infrastructure. The committee is also invested with the power of specifying and (?changing) if need be the estimated value depending on the data on a quarterly index of prices, provided by the state committee for state statistics.

The president's first decree establishes that citizens which fall under clause 16 of the law "On Citizenship in the Republic of Kazakhstan" have the right to obtain an allotment for lifelong inherited possession irrespective of the duration of their residence on the territory of Kazakhstan.

[Correspondent] Are you talking here about those Kazakhstanis who have special merits before the Republic and those people who have been forced to leave the Republic for political reasons as well as their descendants, who decided to come back to their historic motherland for permanent residence?

[Ospanov] Yes, the president considered it necessary to lift the earlier temporary ban and give the right to those citizens of Kazakhstan who have spent not less than five years in the republic to acquire an allotment for lifelong inherited possession. There are 3.2 million landowners with the right to a lifelong inherited possession in the Republic, including 16,000 farms. [passage omitted].

Cabinet of Minister's Resolution on Railway Freight

LD0705111694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution—international and interstate transit rail freight by the republican railways will be done on the basis of agreements on international railway goods traffic.

With the aim to ensure that railway traffic costs are paid in full on international and interstate routes (in the Commonwealth of Independent States) and to speed up payments, it was decided that as of 1 May 1994, international and interstate railway freight will be in accordance with the agreement on international railway cargo carriage, which came into force on 1 November 1951. [passage omitted]

In accordance with the existing international practice of charging, it will be done by a dispatcher of freight at the station of shipment for the distance from the shipment station to the border exit railway station of the Republic of Kazakhstan. For transit freight on the CIS railway routes—through forwarding agents, which are set up by railways, juridical bodies, or individuals, irrespective of their form of ownership. The recipient of shipment is expected to pay for the distance between the exit railway station of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the station of designation.

The Ministry of Transport has been instructed to determine a procedure agreed to by the railway administrations of neighboring CIS states for applying tariffs and calculating freight charges for haulage, carried out by residents of Kazakhstan at railway stations, located on the territory of Kazakhstan and not belonging to the railways of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The ministry is also expected to elaborate a procedure on applying clauses of an agreement on shipment documents and on carriage charging costs on international and interstate routes. Rates of additional tax will be endorsed in case of exceptional cargo value and a tax on amends to freight agreements, introduced at the request of a freight-owner. [passage omitted] Freight rates will be computed in Swiss francs.

Tariffs for the transit of other state's goods by Kazakhstan's railways will be in hard currency or any other agreed currency. Residents of the Republic will pay national currency—tenge—for export-import freight of goods within Kazakhstan and for the same kind of freight. Nonresidents of the Republic are expected to pay in Kazakhstan's national currency or hard currency.

Conversion of hard currency into tenge will be done according to the National Bank's of Kazakhstan exchange rate on the day of payment.

It is established that compulsory sales of currency earnings received for freight of goods is done after placing them to railways's hard currency accounts.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Issues Decree on Military Academy

LD0805140594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The president of the Kyrgyz Republic has issued the following decree establishing the Kyrgyz State National Military Academy.

To meet the needs of national military cadres [words indistinct] and with the aim of developing patriotism and preparing our young people for military schools, I decree:

1. The Kyrgyz State National Military Academy shall be established on the basis of the Russian language comprehensive school named after the 60th anniversary of the Communist Party of Kyrgyzstan and at the dormitory of the republican special boarding school of [word indistinct] physical training in the city of Bishkek.

2. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall examine the organizational and financial matters connected with the establishment of the Kyrgyz State National Military Academy by 1 July 1994.

Signed by Askar Akayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, on 6 May 1994 at Government House in the city of Bishkek.

Akayev Inaugurates Military Academy

LD0905120994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A ceremony was held today in Bishkek in connection with the establishment of the Kyrgyz State National Military Academy. The floor was given by Askar Kakeyev, minister of education of the Kyrgyz Republic, to Kyrgyz Republic President Askar Akayev for the inauguration. Major General Dayrakanov, director of the military school, expressed his gratitude for the Kyrgyz Government's support for the academy.

Akayev Meets, Greets World War II Veterans

LD0905115994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] On the occasion of Victory Day a gathering of veterans of the Great Patriotic War was held at Government House. President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev congratulated them. [passage omitted] Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of the Supreme Kenegesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and Apas Dzhumagulov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic took part.

Tajikistan

Russian Command Expects Provocations on Afghan Border

LD0805134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 8 May TASS—The situation at the Tajik-Afghan border was relatively calm over the past twenty-four hours. However, the situation on the whole remains utterly alarming, and the command of Russian border troops in Tajikistan do not rule out the possibility of fresh large-scale provocations at the border within the next few days. Provocations may be engineered by Tajik opposition militants who entrenched themselves in Afghanistan's northern provinces, TASS learned from well-informed military sources on Sunday [8 May].

The same sources reported that Tajik militants continued massing on Afghan territory in close proximity to the border with Tajikistan, with an obvious aim to attempt a breakthrough into the former Soviet Republic.

Similar attempts have already been thwarted at the Shurobad and Pyandzh border segments on Friday and Saturday by means of mass artillery and rocket fire, a spokesman for Russian border troops in Tajikistan said. He stressed that the enemy should know that such provocations would not go unpunished. Russian border guards and Tajik national security forces have enough weapons and ammunition to foil any attempts of aggression from outside. This was announced unequivocally by the commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, at a recent news conference for local and foreign journalists, the spokesman recalled.

Communique Issued After Rakhmonov Visit to Russia

LD0805103694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0030 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Emamali Rahmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, paid a working visit to Moscow on 5-6 May 1994 at the invitation of Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

Rahmonov held talks with Yeltsin during the visit. The chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet also held talks with [Viktor] Chernomyrdin, head of the government of the Russian Federation, and with Russian Foreign Minister [Andrey] Kozyrev.

During their meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, Yeltsin and Rahmonov discussed a wide range of issues related to the relations between Russia and Tajikistan, as well as the situation in Tajikistan and in the region as a whole.

The two heads of state stressed that Russia and Tajikistan firmly intend to promote and develop their relations in the political, economic, cultural, and other fields under the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance signed in May 1993.

When discussing the issues related to economic cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan, Emamali Rahmonov asked the leaders of Russia to speed up the solution of the issues relating to unification of the two states' monetary systems. He pointed out that the Tajik side will implement its [words indistinct] obligations. The sides decided to instruct their governments to continue work on this issue.

The Russian side pointed out that it is ready to continue economic and humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan, and will develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries [words indistinct].

Rahmonov expressed gratitude to the president of the Russian Federation for its all-round assistance to Tajikistan, and spoke highly of Russia's efforts to solve Tajikistan's problems. The Tajik head of state congratulated Boris Yeltsin, and through him all the people of Russia, on the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord which, has a decisive role to play in democratic renovation of society.

Emamali Rahmonov invited Boris Yeltsin and [Viktor] Cherno ıyrdin to pay a friendly visit to the Republic of Tajikistan. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The full text of the Russian-Tajik joint communique will be published in the press.

Six Killed Near Dushanbe; Details of Dustov Attack

LD0605165994

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1308 GMT on 6 May carries a four-minute live report from Dushanbe by Mayak correspondent Arisher Khadzhayev, who gives details of the attempted assassination of Former Tajik Vice President Narzullo Dustov, and the unrelated killings of six people.

Khadzhayev begins by saying: "The following news spread around Dushanbe this morning, although no one reported it officially: Unknown persons, presumably two in number, made an attempt yesterday evening on the life of Former Vice President of Tajikistan Narzullo Dustov right outside his home. He was wounded in the leg. His bodyguard was shot twice. They are now both in hospital."

Khadzhayev further says: "A number of suspects" were detained and an investigation was underway. He then continues:

"Another piece of tragic news has come into the Mayak office from Kofirnikhonskiy rayon outside Dushanbe. According to preliminary information, six people were killed there last night. No motive for the murders has yet been established."

The rest of Khadzhayev's report was devoted to the hardships facing Tajikistan's elderly World War II veterans and local charitable efforts to help them.

Turkmenistan

Russian Border Issues Discussed in Ashgabat

LD0605214994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[Text] Ashgabat, 6 May—The joint protection of Turkmenistan's state border was discussed today during a meeting between Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov and Lieutenant General Aleksandr Bespalov, deputy commander of the Russian Federation border troops.

Methods were defined for the implementation of the intergovernment treaty between Turkmenistan and Russia, signed at the end of 1993, on the joint protection of Turkmenistan's borders, and on the status of Russian Federation servicemen in the Republic. Aleksandr Bespalov said "the formation of an operational group of Russian border troops which is being set up in accordance with the intergovernment treaty, has been completed."

Issues related to insuring the functioning of the operational group in close cooperation with the Turkmenistan border troops were also examined at the meeting. This kind of cooperation meets the mutual interests of the two countries and insures their security at Turkmenistan's state border.

Niyazov, Iranian Official Discuss Prospects for Ties

LD0705103994 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 7 May, IRNA—The governor general of Esfahan Province of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri in a meeting Friday in Ashgabat with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, conveyed to him a message from his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on unlimited avenues for the expansion of bilateral relations.

Niyazov in the meeting underlined the need for expansion of Tehran-Ashgabat relations and said that his country will always support the Iranian people.

Referring to Iran's capability in the fields of agriculture and construction material, Jahangiri voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Turkmenistan in the said areas.

Niyazov thanked Iranian president for trying to expand mutual ties.

Turkmenia To Resume Gas Supply to Ukraine

LD0605125994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Turkmenstan's President Saparmurat Niyazov has notified his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk of Ashgabat's desire to resume gas supplies to Kiev.

As the acting Ukrainian Premier Efim Zvyagilski has told journalists in Ukraine's capital, Kiev set a counter term to cut the cost of gas from 52.5 dollars per one thousand cubic meters down to 40 dollars. However, Zvyagilski believes "Ashgabat is unlikely to accept the offered price." In his opinion, $50 for one thousand cubic meters (the price that Ukraine pays for gas from Russia) "can satisfy both sides."

Turkmenia discontinued gas delivery to Ukraine in February because of Ukraine's failure to pay off $650 million in fuel debts.

Meanwhile, according to Zvyagilski, Ukraine has enough gas today. More than that, it has been able to save up to 20-25 million cubic meters of gas a month for a rainy day.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Address, Edict on Victory Day

LD0805205194 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, addressed his countrymen on the occasion of the celebrations of the great victory. The text of the address will be published in the press. On the same day, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed an edict on awarding the participants in the war against Fascism and those who worked on the home front during 1941-45 on the occasion of Victory Day.

The address reads: For the service of the participants of the war in the struggle against fascism and those who worked on the home front during 1941-45 for freedom and independence, peaceful skies, and the flourishment of our country, to award on the occasion of the Victory Day festival and the creation for the first time of the orders and medals of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the medal Jasorat [courage] to the servicemen, partisans, those serving in the underground organizations who participated in military activities on the fronts in the war against fascism, servicemen and those who had served during the period of war in the ranks of the Armed Forces, and those who were awarded with medals for victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941-45.

The medal Shuhrat [glory] for the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who worked for the national economy not less than six months from 22 June 1941 to 9 May 1945, those who were awarded the medals for good work during the Great Patriotic War 1941-45 carrying the sign of residents of the blockade of Leningrad, the under-age members of the labor camps, [word indistinct], and other places of imprisonment created by the Fascists and their allies during the period of the Second World War. The awarding of the medals Jasorat and Shuhrat and the corresponding cash sum will [word indistinct] the independence day of Uzbekistan.

[Signed] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Report on 5 May Supreme Council Session

LD0805212394 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Yesterday [5 May], the Supreme Council session of the Republic of Uzbekistan began in Tashkent. The morning session was opened by Erkin Khalilov, acting chairman of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan. The peoples deputies observed a minute's silence in honor of those people deputies who died between the sessions. The floor was then given to Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In his speech, Islam Abdulghaniyevich informed the parliamentarians about the work of the leadership of the Republic for deepening economic reforms. The speaker noted that good conditions have been formed in the Republic for work on the new stage of the reforms. The way is now wide open for developing private property and its legal protection. The process of removing from state control and privatization is gaining momentum. The president of the Republic particularly touched on the question about the development of the social infrastructure in the countryside. He also talked widely on the question about the upcoming introduction of the national currency. The speech also analyzed the foreign economic activities of the young state. Concluding his speech, Islam Karimov said that we are looking at the future with great hopes and our intentions are [words indistinct] and only selfless effort will bring us [words indistinct].

The Supreme Council of Uzbekistan adopted a decision on the speech of the president of the Republic. According to this document, the work carried in the republic for the stage-by-stage reform of society and transfer to a socially orientated market economy is approved, and the conditions and conclusions of the recent speeches by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan are supported. They have been adopted for undeviating implementation and guidance.

The deputies then began the examination of the establishment of the order of Uzbekistan Kahrimoni [Hero of Uzbekistan] and the highest order of perfection, the medal Oltin Yulduz [The Gold Star], the orders Mustakilik [Independence], Dustlik [Friendship], the medals Jasorat [Courage], and Shuhrat [Glory]. The session

approved the orders and medals of the sovereign state. The president of the republic proposed that in line with the upcoming Victory Day that the Jasorat medal be awarded to all participants in the Great Patriotic War and the home front. The session approved this proposal. At a proposal by a group of peoples deputies the question of awarding the order Uzbekistan Kahrimoni to Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan was examined. Speaking on this question Vitaliy Nikolayevich [last name indistinct], peoples deputy and the director of the Almalyk mining and metallurgical combinat, said:

[Begin Vitaliy recording] Esteemed deputies! The many thousand miners collective's and gold miners think that the first citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan ought to receive the order of Hero of Uzbekistan, Islam Abdulghaniyevich Karimov, president of the Republic [loud applause]. I think that there is no doubt here because the services of the president, comrade Karimov, are well known to the whole world. It is difficult to count his services here but the most important thing is, and we must agree on this, that the republic is living in peace and tranquility. For the sake of this our president [words indistinct], his health, and as they say with his life. To confirm my words I will bring you a small example. Exactly three years ago Islam Abdulghaniyevich decided to start the production of gold currency in the Republic. Uzbekistan is the first country to have done this in the CIS after Russia, where gold currency is produced. It is good that today we adopted the law on orders. Islam Abdulghaniyevch we congratulate you from all our heart! [loud applause] Wish you good health! [loud applause] [end recording]

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan then decided to award Islam Abdulghaniyevich Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with the title of Uzbekistan Kahrimoni and the highest order of perfection, the Oltin Yulduz medal, for outstanding contribution to the creation of the sovereign and independent Uzbekistan, the creation of a humane, democratic and legal state, guaranteeing civil peace and national accord, and for the firmness and courage shown in this.

During the second half of the day the session continued its work under the chairmanship of Boris Budrov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council. The peoples deputies examined a large number of questions on the agenda. The deputies discussed the drafts of the constitutional law on the Aliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the law on elections of peoples deputies in the oblast, rayon, and city soviets, and on guarantees for the voting rights of citizens. The deputies adopted a decision on approving these laws in their first reading.

The peoples deputies listened and discussed the draft laws on foreign investments and guaranteeing the activities of foreign investors, on bankruptcy and taxes, and on operations involving valuable papers. These laws were confirmed. The session also adopted in their first reading the code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on crimes and punishment and the criminal and procedural code. Today, the 15th session of the 12th convocation of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan continues its work.

Armenia

Bishkek Meeting Results Discussed in Yerevan

NC0705185794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1332 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 7 MAY (SNARK)— The results of Bishkek summit were summarised today in Yerevan, where the President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received the Acting Chairman of Karabakh Parliament, Karen Baburyan, and the Karabakh Foreign Minister, Arkadiy Gukasyan.

As SNARK newsman was told in the press center of President, the meeting was also attended by the Speaker of the Armenian Parliament Babken Ararktsyan, Vice President Gagik Garutunyan, the Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan and other Armenian top officials.

Parliament Speaker Babken Ararktsyan stated that Azerbaijan has actually torpedoed the CIS initiative by refusing to sign the Bishkek protocol. No other details were reported.

Yerevan Denounces Baku's Stand on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0605180794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 6 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Press secretary Levon Zurabyan of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told INTERFAX that Baku's refusal to negotiate a ceasefire on the line of confrontation between the Karabakh and Azeri forces proved that Baku's stand on Nagorno-Karabakh was short-sighted and that Baku still hoped to resolve the Karabakh problem by force. Zurabyan said Baku rejected all suggestions and initiatives for a settlement, as well as mediation by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia. In Zurabyan's view, its own policies led Baku up a blind alley.

Zurabyan felt the key to the solution of the Karabakh problem lay in Baku because Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh had repeatedly declared their willingness to negotiate an enduring ceasefire accommodation. IF Note: On Thursday the Azeri delegation to a two-day conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, held in Bishkek, refused to sign a protocol with a call for the introduction of a cease-fire as of 0000 on 9 May. The other participants in the two-day negotiations—Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia and Kyrgyzstan—signed the protocol. Baku rejects the document that makes no mention of the Armenian occupation of part of Azerbaijan and allows for the creation and introduction of a Commonwealth peacekeeping contingent in the disputed area. In addition, Baku suggested that the protocol, signed by Nagorno-Karabakh as a whole, must also be signed by Karabakh's Azeri community. The suggestion was rejected.

Chairmen Babken Ararktsyan and Karen Baburyan of the Armenian and Karabakh parliaments told their Kyrgyz counterpart Medetkhan Sherimkulov in Bishkek Friday that on return to their home places they would work for a cease-fire in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

Sherimkulov, who chairs the Karabakh peacekeeping group of the Commonwealth's Interparliamentary Assembly, sees what Ararktsyan and Baburyan told him as response to his request for the unilateral introduction of a ceasefire at 0000 on 9 May. Sherimkulov intends to address Baku with a similar request.

Ararktsyan praised the results of the Bishkek conference and told INTERFAX that the Armenians would take unilateral action to implement the Bishkek protocol. He hoped Baku would realize the impossibility of resolving the conflict by force.

Poll Shows Support for Independent Nagorno-Karabakh

NC0605131694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1138 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 5 May (SNARK)—What solution of the Karabakh problem is the best? This question has been asked to 1,200 Yerevan residents by the Sociological Research Center of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Over 40 percent responded that Nagorno-Karabakh has to become an independent state, 30 percent told that Karabakh must become a part of Armenia, 24.4 percent decided that Karabakh shall be included in Russia. A little over 4 percent think that Karabakh needs to be integrated in the Caucasus Federation.

Notably, only 0.6 percent of respondents voted for Karabakh autonomy within Azerbaijan, and another 0.4 percent told that it has to remain a part of Azerbaijan.

The poll has been carried out in the first half of April by USIA order.

Parliament Chairman Says Karabakh de Facto Recognized

NC0705190494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1332 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 7 MAY (SNARK)— Though Nagorno-Karabakh has not been recognized de jure as a party involved in conflict, however de facto this has been recorded during the Bishkek summit, told the journalists in Yerevan today the Chairman of Armenian Parliament Babken Ararktsyan. By his words, the participants of this meeting came to a general opinion that there wouldn't be any progress in peaceful resolution of problem if Karabakh is not recognized as a conflicting party.

Giving an answer to the SNARK question, why did Azerbaijan refuse to sign the Bishkek protocol, Arakrtsyan observed: "I think Azerbaijan has not yet developed a distinct political course, and not only with respect to Karabakh." At the same time, the Speaker thought unlikely the new escalation of military conflict in the nearest time.

Former Deputy Security Adviser Arrested

LD0705134094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Armenia's special services have detained in Moscow a former deputy chief adviser to President Ter-Pterosyan on national security. He is accused of divulging state secrets.

Further on Arrest

LD0705193094 ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1801 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 7 May—Vagan Avakyan, former first deputy chief adviser on security issues to the Armenian president, was arrested in Moscow's Sheremetevo airport on Friday [6 May]. He was in Bulgaria, where he gave a number of interviews and made a number of statements sharply criticizing the Armenian leadership. The Armenian authorities had earlier sanctioned the arrest of the former high-ranking official, and he was put on the "wanted" list. According to information that is as yet unconfirmed, Avakyan was expelled by the Bulgarian authorities at the request of the Armenian side and was arrested on arrival in Moscow by staff of the State National Security Directorate of Armenia. It was announced here that he was taken to Yerevan on Friday evening.

Avakyan is charged with attempting to take state secrets out of Armenia. His spouse, who was taking six computer discs containing secret information to her husband, was detained at Yerevan airport in February. The investigation that is under way is to determine what Avakyan's aim was in gathering, storing, and attempting to take out secret material with the help of his wife, and also to what country and to what services he intended to hand the information over to and who his accomplices are, the leadership of Armenia's security department reported in March.

Avakyan used to be the first deputy to Ashot Manucharyan [presidential adviser on national security], one of the members of the Karabakh committee who was sharply critical of Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his administration's political course when he left the entourage of the Armenian president. In reply to this criticism, Armenian Internal Affairs Minister Vanik Siradegyan, another member of the Karabakh committee, publicly accused Manucharyan of supporting criminal elements and mafia structures. The minister named Avakyan among those who enjoyed Manucharyan's protection. According to the internal affairs minister, Avakyan is involved in taking abroad and spending large sums of hard currency intended for aid to Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh].

Armenian Diplomat Visits Oman, Discusses Ties

NC0605195194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Armenian charge d'affaires ad interim in Egypt, Eduard Nalbandyan, visited the Sultanate of Oman from 2-5 May. Nalbandyan has been acting as Armenia's charge d'affaires in the Sultanate of Oman since October 1993.

He met Omani Deputy Prime Minister Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi in Muscat on 4 May and handed him a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan addressed to the Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press and Public Relations Service reported that prospects for developing Armenian-Omani ties were discussed at the meeting. It was also noted that a climate of friendship and mutual trust has been established between the two countries, which allows for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation.

The Armenian diplomat briefed the Omani deputy prime minister in detail on Armenia's position on settling the Karabakh problem.

Nalbandyan also met Oman's foreign, economy, and finance ministers. They discussed drafts of agreements on bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Trade Agreement Signed With Austria

NC0805102894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1446 GMT 7 May 94

[From the "Business SNARK" file: "Transcaucasia Economic News"]

[Text] YEREVAN [Dateline as received]—On 2 May, Armenian Minister for Economy Armen Yegiazaryan signed Armenian-Austrian trade and economic treaty. Press-service of the Armenian Government told SNARK, the sides were preliminary signing the treaty on mutual foreign investments incentives and defence.

The members of the Armenian delegation visited some enterprises in the capital of Austria, Vienna.

Minister on Ways To Overcome Energy Crisis

NC0805071294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1405 GMT 7 May 94

[From the "Business SNARK" file: "Transcaucasia Economic News: Energy"]

[Text] Yerevan—The energy system of Armenia, in its time one of the best in the former USSR, now is on the decline, declared Miron Shishmanyan, Armenian Minister of Energy and Fuel, at the International Energy Conference, held in Yerevan.

In his opinion, the main ways of overcoming the crisis are re-opening of the Armenian Nuclear Station, optimum usage of the acting thermal plants and hydrostations, building of the gas pipeline and high-voltage line from Iran to Armenia. It's also very important to stimulate fuel import to Armenia and to build here an oil-refining plant. Mr. Shishmanyan also mentioned the importance of using nontraditional sources of energy.

He reported that the European Bank has already given 57 million dollars for the reconstruction and expansion of the Hrazdan Thermal Plant. As to the Iran-Armenia gas pipeline, the sides are preparing to sign the final agreement on its building.

Azerbaijan

Update of Situation on Karabakh Front

NC0605150494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1015 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 5 MAY (SNARK)—The tension does not cease in the northern and north-eastern sectors of Karabakh front. The press service of Karabakh Defence Army Staff told SNARK today, this morning the military actions restarted at the surroundings of Talysh settlement and to the north of Mardakert town. Karabakh forces are neutralizing the attempts of Azerbaijani troops to break through the Karabakh defensive border.

Meanwhile, according to the same source, as a result of yesterday's battles near Chailu and Karmiravan settlements of Mardakertskiy region, Karabakh forces succeeded not only to beat off all Azerbaijani attacks but also to set control over a range of strategical important hills. According to the press service, Azerbaijani army lost several tens of soldiers and had to step back.

New Armenian Offensive in Karabakh Reported

LD0605120894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Armenian troops launched a new offensive in the north-east of Karabakh Thursday [5 May] night.

As an Azerbaijani Defence Ministry officer has reported to INTERFAX, Friday morning the Azerbaijani army was on defensive at approaches to the town of Terter as well as in the north-east of the Agdam Region, Azerbaijan. Armenians have been heavily shelling Terter and the road linking it with Barda, a town 50 kilometers east of the aerial center.

According to reports from Baku, two enemy tanks and an armored vehicle have been put out of action in fierce fighting since 5 May.

Meanwhile, as a Karabakh army spokesman has reported to INTERFAX, Azerbaijani forces have launched an offensive toward Seisulan and Yarymja, two villages in the Mardakert region, Karabakh. All their attacks were repulsed.

By specified Karabakh Army reports, in the course of Thursday battles the Azerbaijanis lost up to 60 men and two tanks and were forced back to where they had come from. Karabakh casualties were three men kilied and nine wounded.

Armenian Troops Reportedly Killed Trying To Surrender

NC0605165794 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Armenian military units used tanks painted red and infantry units dressed in white uniforms in their attacks on towns in Terterskiy Rayon. Colonel Rezvan Maliyev, chief of police in Terterskiy Rayon, informed a correspondent of the [name indistinct] NEWS AGENCY that the objective was to create fear in Azerbaijan's military units. Despite their efforts to direct psychological pressure on our units, the Armenians suffered many casualties. They have lost 32 tanks and large quantities of grenade launchers, mortars, and other types of arms since the beginning of their onslaught against Terterskiy Rayon on 16 April. They have also lost 100 men a day.

Asked how many Armenians have been taken prisoner during the past few days, Maliyev said: The Armenians kill their colleagues to prevent them from being taken prisoner. A special military detachment has been created in Armenia for that purpose. The commander of a group of 24 troops recently contacted Azerbaijan's military positions by field radio to inform them that they were ready to surrender as long as they were guaranteed safe travel to Russia. The Armenian command center monitored what they said. The 24 troops were shot and killed. Another 64 Armenian troops who wanted to surrender were shot and killed in the south of the front line.

Defense Ministry on Fighting 5 May; Armenians Said Repulsed

NC0605163394 Baku AZERTAC in English 1341 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Baku, 6 May (AZERTAC)—Fighting was going on in the zone of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday. According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, the most heavy fighting took place in Agdamskiy, Terterskiy and Geranboy [Shaumyanovskiy] where the Armenians were trying to fight their way through the Azeri defences. The Azeri National Army has repulsed the enemy's attacks. The Armenians have suffered heavy casualties.

Situation in Azeri-Armenian Conflict Zone Remains Tense

LD0605161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 6 May TASS—Yerevan—The situation on Armenia's north-eastern border was tense last night, the press service of the Armenian Defence Ministry reported.

Late on Thursday Azeri formations launched an offensive on the village of Paravakar in the Taush region of Armenia but had to retreat as Armenians opened fire in retaliation, the same source said. Armenian official sources say fighting continues in the northeast of Karabakh.

Baku—The Azeri Defence Ministry reported today that military operations had been going on in the zone of the Azeri-Armenian conflict throughout the past twenty four hours. Heavy fighting was reported in the Agdam, Terter and Geranboi directions. The Azeri Defence Ministry said that all attacks made by Armenian armed formations to break through the Azeri line of defence are being successfully rebuffed.

Nagorno-Karabakh Official Claims Mojahedin Fight for Baku

LD0605182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Chief of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army press service, Serzh Arushanyan suggested that Azerbaijan was trying to bring about a change in military actions and to improve the situation on the front's sections when utilizing Afghan mujahideen with military experience.

Arushanyan stressed in an interview with INTERFAX that Baku was after not only a military, but also a political purpose—to internationalize the conflict and give it a religious character in order to confront Christian Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the Moslem world.

Stepanakert had several months before stated there were mujahideen in the Azerbaijani Army. One was taken prisoner by the Karabakh troops on 22 April.

However, the Azerbaijani Defense Minister affirmed on 5 May that no foreigners were serving in the Azerbaijani Army.

Karabakh Reports Successful Repulses of Azeri Attacks

LD0705101194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0854 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 7 May—Azerbaijani troops this morning attacked Karabakh positions in the north of Kelbadzharskiy rayon in the Omarskiy Pass. This was reported by the press service of the Karabakh Army. According to its information, Karabakh elements controlling all of the dominating heights in the sector had repulsed the enemy attack. Information on the number of losses suffered is being established, it was stressed in Stepanakert.

At the same time, the press service of the Karabakh Army reported that sustained fighting had continued late on Friday evening in the north-eastern and eastern sectors of the front in Nagornyo-Karabakh. As in preceding days, the Karabakh side repulsed the offensive in several directions and had to some extent forced the Azerbaijani elements back to the very rear of their positions at the villages of Leninavan and Osipavan in Mardakertskiy rayon of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, official sources noted in the capital of Nagorno- Karabakh.

Defense Ministry Reports Armenian Bombing Resumed

LD0705130794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by AZERTAC correspondent Dzhamilya Kuliyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 7 May—It is reported by the press service of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry that units of the Armenian armed forces, "after being on the point of halting their offensive because of the losses suffered, have again started bombarding peaceful populated localities in Azerbaijan's Terterskiy [Terter] rayon." On this same front, according to Azerbaijani military experts, one must expect a resumption of the offensive by the Armenian armed forces, since there is information of the transfer to the area of an additional military contingent, armored vehicles, and ammunition.

The latest offensive by Armenia's armed forces, Azerbaijan's military department notes, has been going on since 1 May with nonstop, but unsuccessful attacks on positions in Geranboyskiy [Geranboy], Terterskiy, and Agdamskiy [Agdam] rayons.

Karabakh Official: Azerbaijan Unwilling To Solve Conlict

LD0705150694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Deputy commander of Nagorno Karabakh's Defense Army General Khristofor Ivanyan declared in his interview with INTERFAX that "having refused to sign the cease-fire agreement in Bishkek, which contains a mechanism preventing resumption of hostilities, Azerbaijan has once more demonstrated its unwillingness to solve the Karabakh conflict at the negotiation table."

In his words, while supporting cease-fire in words, the Azerbaijani side opposes introduction of disengagement forces into the conflict zone "which are the real guarantor of cease-fire observance."

Ivanyan pointed out that all previous agreements were disrupted due to the fact that there was an opportunity to violate the reached agreements and then to accuse the confronting party of this.

Ivanyan also declared that the Azerbaijani party had used the previous truce periods only to win the time, to collect new forces, and to try another offensive on the front. "Now, having experienced a number of serious defeats and great losses in personnel and military equipment, the Azerbaijani command is looking for an opportunity for a respite in order to bring in order their demoralized forces, which are tired of endless attacks."

Update on Fighting for 7 May

NC0705191194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1328 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 7 May (SNARK)— Meanwhile, diplomats try to find the ways of Karabakh conflict settlement, the battles do not cease in here. According to data received by SNARK from the Karabakh Defence Army press service, today Azerbaijani troops took offensive on Omar pass in the north of Kelbajarskiy region. However, Karabakh forces, keeping under the control all important hills, beat off the attacks of Azeris, who lost more than 100 people.

According to the same source, till evening of 6 May there were battles in the north-eastern (Mardakertskiy) and eastern (Agdamskiy) sectors of the front.

After beating off the attacks of Azerbaijani troops, Karabakh forces began counter-attack in the direction of Leninavan village of Mardakertskiy region and Hovsepavan village of Agdamskiy region and, as a result, Azeris were forced back deep into their positions.

The observers in Stepanakert consider that the activation of offensive military actions by Azerbaijan should be connected with its uncompromising position at the negotiations in Bishkek, where, as it is known, official Baku frustrated the peace-making initiative of the CIS.

Front Calm; Armenia Said Preparing New Offensive

NC0705182594 Baku TURAN in English 1607 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Baku (7 May) TURAN—Over the past day there was little fighting in the northeastern section of the front (Terter-Geranboy), report military sources. According to experts from Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, the slowdown is a result of failures by the Armenian Army in the north-eastern direction. Beginning with 1 May approximately 250 Armenian soldiers were killed and wounded and they also lost several units of military hardware.

Having incurred many losses, Armenian troops have been compelled to regroup and strategise as they await extra military hardware as well as additional forces from Armenia.

In addition to this, diplomatic sources told Turan that the Armenian Army is planning to launch a new large-scale offensive towards the Geranboyskiy (northern), Terterskiy and Barda (north-eastern) regions. The goal of attack is to occupy these regions and to reach the city of Yevlakh. The same source reports that Russian specialists are also involved in planning the offensive. As before, the Russian troops located in Armenia are expected to take part in the offensive. It is known that the Russian party provides Armenia with military intelligence from Azerbaijan. Some experts see this assistance as a reaction by Moscow to Azerbaijan's signing of NATO's programme "Partnership for the Sake of Peace" and the Azerbaijan's refusal to sign the Bishkek document which was proposed by Russia.

Armenian Forces Resume Offensive on Fizuli Front

LD0805170894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Armenia's new military detachments, which were transferred to the hostilities zone in Nagorno-Karabakh resumed the offensive on the Fizuli section of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reported on Sunday [8 May].

As a result of fierce fighting, the Azerbaijani Army destroyed one tank and one missile launcher Grad by yesterday's evening. The Defense Ministry also reports that a car Niva with officers of the Armenian Army was destroyed as a result of hostilities. The Azerbaijani units forced the adversary to move back to the starting positions having killed about 100 Armenian soldiers. Simultaneously the Armenian forces launched an offensive in the Kelbadjar region in the direction of the mountain pass Omar.

As the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports, at present Armenians continue to methodically subject Azerbaijani positions (located in the Agdam, Terter, and Geranboi directions) to rocket-artillery shelling.

Azeri Troops Resume Offensive on Mardakert Region

LD0805170694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Sunday morning the Azeri troops resumed their offensive in the direction of the villages of Chailu and Leninavan in the north of Mardakert Region of Nagorny Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. They are supported by artillery and armored vehicles. Military actions are continuing all along the front line, said the press service of Nagorny Karabakh's defence army.

According to reports issued at 1200 on Sunday, the Karabakh forces have repulsed all attacks. Their enemy sustained losses in personnel and military equipment. Concrete losses are not known yet. At the other sectors of the front routine exchanges of fire went on last night and Sunday morning.

Aliyev Discusses Karabakh Settlement With Russian Envoy

LD0805175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1724 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (ITAR-TASS)—Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received today Vladimir Kazimirov, a plenipotentiary of the Russian president. ITAR-TASS has learned at the Russian Foreign Ministry that they discussed a Karabakh settlement. Rasul Guliyev, the chairman of the National Assembly, and other Azerbaijani leaders took part in the conversation.

Foreign Minister on Importance of Membership of NATO Scheme

LD0705164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov has described Azerbaijan's recent entry into NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme as "extremely important."

In an interview with INTERFAX, he said the scheme, as well as the fundamental documents of the North Atlantic alliance, stressed the need to maintain the territorial integrity and security of its member states.

A senior source in the Azerbaijani president's staff told INTERFAX the country's participation in the Partnership for Peace does not mean that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has exhausted its potential for resolving the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict. He said Azerbaijan's commitments under the NATO scheme do not contradict its commitments under the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

The source said Azerbaijan is ready to take part in international collective security systems that can preserve its territorial integrity and independence and ensure its security. Another top member of the presidential staff, Eldar Namazov, said Azerbaijan's membership in the Partnership for Peace would get NATO involved in efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"In effect this means more opportunities for a political settlement of the conflict," he said.

Economy Ministry Revises 1994 Forecast

NC0805065294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1341 GMT 7 May 94

[From the "Business SNARK" file: "Transcaucasia Economic News"]

[Text] Baku—Azerbaijani Ministry for Economics submitted the revised forecast of social-economic development for 1994 to the Ministry of Finance.

By the Milli Majlis proposal, this forecast has to be used by the Ministry of Finance to correct the budget draft.

According to the forecast, the inflation in 1994 reaches 600 percent. The first option outlined 240 percent inflation.

A Finance Ministry official told that his department does not accept the projected inflation level as inadequate to the real economic situation. Only during the first quarter of the current year, the inflation exceeded 300 percent, while the production output reduced for 25 percent.

On the basis of 600-percent level, the Economy Ministry expects the GNP at amount of 910 billion manats, and national income of 677 billion manats. The initial forecast gave respectively 313 and 272 billion manats.

A conference with participation of the Milli Majlis commissions on economic policy and budget along with the corresponding ministries took place in the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet.

There was discussed the economic prognosis for 1994, submitted by the Economy Ministry. The prognosis was rejected because of its "unreality." The prognoses on the inflation rate (600 per cent) and the rate of National profit rose the greatest censure of the conference participants.

Meanwhile, the specialists of the Finance Ministry forecast a 1000 per cent inflation rate in 1994. The prognoses were sent for revision.

Russia Suggests Free Trade Zone on Border

NC0805081194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1346 GMT 7 May 94

[From the "Business SNARK" file: "Transcaucasia Economic News"]

[Text] Baku [Dateline as received]—The Russian Foreign Ministry has proposed an initiative to settle issues regulating border regime between Russia and Azerbaijan. The Russian Foreign Ministry sent a written message to Baku with this purpose.

Azim Dzharahmedov, the employee of the Russian Embassy in Baku has affirmed that fact. According to him, Mr. Churkin, the first deputy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, has sent a letter to the Russian Embassy to Baku asking for starting consultations with the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry for setting up the free economic zone between Azerbaijan and Dagestan.

Mr. Dzharahmedov pointed out that means establishing of joint-ventures, stock-companies, and organization of by-border trade.

Russia suggests creating a commission that will carry out work on realization of corresponding proposals.

The commission will consist of ministries' chiefs and also the Dagestan Prime-Minister.

Mr. Dzharahmedov said the positive decision will be beneficial both for Azerbaijan and Dagestan since only in the Derbent region are 75 thousand Azerbaijanis and in the northern regions of Azerbaijan are dozens thousand Lezgins, Avaries and Lacks. As Mr. Dzharahmedov said "a creation of free economic zone will keep and reinforce historical and cultural ties between two neighboring countries."

Georgia

Shevardnadze, EBRD Delegation Discuss Program

LD0605185094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, has met a delegation from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. The delegation was introduced to Eduard Shevardnadze by Tengiz Geleishvili, who has been involved for the past five months in developing a program suggested by the EBRD. The visitors expressed surprise that the Georgian Parliament did not confirm Tengiz Geleishvili's nomination to the post of chairman of the Committee of Foreign Economic Relations.

Part of the 2 billion ECU [European Currency Unit] allotted by the EBRD to the republics of the former Soviet Union will be used in Georgia to develop private business, revive the economy and industry, improve international telecommunications and reach financial stabilization.

Work on a large project is approaching its end. Taking into consideration the current critical situation in Georgia, a team working on this project has made a decision to start work on the Enguri hydropower station, the Rioni hydropower station, and other substations. Some $40 million have been allotted for this purpose.

Apart from such priorities, the program stipulates restoration and reconstruction of Georgian sea ports, financial stabilization of Georgian banks, creation of an infrastructure required for starting the republic's industry, and improvement of the network of international telecommunications. This will encourage business and financing of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

At the end of the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze said: We believe that our relations are quite serious and large-scale. I have to admit that we are in a great hurry and therefore, I think we have to work out a joint program, which will determine the exact time and work details. The program will reflect present and future work and if events develop as we hope, normal working conditions will be established very soon, I am sure.

Shevardnadze Meets German Bundestag Officials

LD0605210694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Today, Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, met Bundestag Deputy Hans Jochen Vogel, the leader of a social democratic faction, Genrod (Erlecht), a scientific assistant from the social democratic faction, Dr. Winfrid Weiss and Dr. Alfred (Kidol), members of the (Friedrich Ebert) Foundation, Guenter Dalhoff, the German ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, and other officials.

Eduard Shevardnadze thanked the German Government and German people on the whole for the support Georgia can feel from their side. The head of state said that our country is facing two problems: The Abkhaz-Georgian conflict and the grave economic crisis. The disintegration of the former Soviet Union resulted in wrecking economic links with Russia, Ukraine, and other republics. Georgia found itself in a complete isolation. The principal task today is to restore these links and establish integrational contacts with leading world countries. The head of state emphasized that although it is rather difficult to solve the existing problems, Georgia has chosen a road of economic reforms and democracy and will not step aside.

On behalf of the German people, Mr. Vogel greeted the head of state and thanked him for the reception. He said that it is necessary to stay by a friend's side when he is in need. The German Government well realizes this, but it also realizes that the assistance it has granted to Georgia is not sufficient and therefore, it welcomes our government's decision to restore links with the republics of the former Soviet Union. Business-like and open contacts do not mean that there will be an element of discrimination, Mr. Vogel said.

At the end of the meeting, members of the German delegation expressed hopes that peace will be established in Georgia soon and the country will escape the existing problems.

The meeting was attended by Guram Muchaidze, the leader of the Georgian Social democratic Party.

Shevardnadze To Intensify Commission in S. Ossetia

NC0705190694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1332 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 7 MAY (SNARK)— Eduard Shevardnadze intends to intensify the activity of three-lateral joint-control commission in South Ossetia, told in his exclusive interview to SNARK today the personal and

plenipotentiary envoy of the Georgian state head, Georgian state representative in South Ossetia and parliament deputy, Vazha Khachapooridze [spelling as received]. By his words, the activity of commission bears now a formal character, the result of which is the prolonged settlement of Ossetian problem.

At the same time, told Khachapooridze, it is early yet to speak today of the political status of South Ossetia. A group of political experts has to be set up, he said, representing Russian, Georgian, and Ossetian sides.

Tbilisi Reports Armed Clash in Galskiy

LD0605165194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] At approximately 1730 on 5 May Abkhazian forces assaulted residents of the Georgian village of Mziuri, in the Galskiy district of Abkhazia.

According to the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry, both the Georgians and Abkhazian forces reported dead and wounded. How many people were lost in the conflict, remains unknown.

The press service of Abkhazia's plenipotentiary mission to Moscow rejects the Georgian report. It says that thirteen Abkhaz troops have been missing in the Galskiy district since 5 May. A spokesman for the Abkhazian mission held Georgian subversives responsible for their disappearance. He said subversive groups infiltrated Abkhazian territory time and again from across the Inguri river.

According to the Abkhazian Ambassador to Moscow Igor Akhba, the subversives aimed to torpedo the repatriation of refugees to the Galskiy district.

Paramilitaries Reported Killed

LD0805150194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry briefed INTERFAX on what happened on 5 May in the village of Mziuri of Abkhazia's Galskiy district. According to the press-center, at approximately 1700 on 5 May some fifteen armed paramilitaries drove up to plunder the Georgian-populated village. The villagers called for help and Georgian military police arrived. The police surrounded the paramilitaries and ordered them to surrender. In response, the paramilitaries opened fire and wounded two police officers. Five paramilitaries were killed and four taken prisoner. The remaining few escaped.

What a Georgian police unit was doing on Abkhaz-controlled territory, was something the press center refused to tell INTERFAX.

Legislator Urges Military Action Against Abkhazia

LD0805144494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A member of the Georgian parliament Boris Kakubava calls for the military action for the return of breakaway Abkhazia. Addressing a convention of the Union for the Liberation of Abkhazia, in Tbilisi, Kakubava described political moves for the return of Abkhazia as a criminal waste of time.

He said that although he was no fascist, he knew that ethnic Georgians would return to Abkhazia with the help of those same means that were used to oust them from their home place.

But, Kakubava said, no refugee would dare return as long as the Abkhaz authorities dictated terms in Sukhumi.

Kakubava accused Eduard Shevardnadze of losing Abkhazia. He said he represented the best part of the Georgian nation and would work for the triumph of the Georgian spirit throughout Georgia.

Kakubava urged the 300 delegates to the convention to refrain from moves that could aggravate the domestic situation and foment confrontation with the government.

The leader of Georgia's Popular Front Nodar Natadze rejected the idea of taking military action against Abkhazia. In his view, moves must be made to create an operational committee for the temporarily occupied areas which would instruct the government on strategies for Abkhazia.

Speaking on behalf of Shevardnadze's Georgian Citizens' Union, Georgiy Baramidze called, but failed to evoke support, for a political settlement. The convention is going on. Eduard Shevardnadze will be expected to take part in the proceedings.

Defense Minister Regarded as Russian Serviceman

LD0605202894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 6th [dateline as received]—According to an announcement by the Department of Information of the Russian Defense Ministry, despite the fact that Lieutenant General Varden Nadibaidze has been appointed Georgian defense minister, he is still regarded as an officer of Russian Armed Forces because he has not taken an oath of loyalty to Georgia.

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